



December 4, 2018

Michigan House Local Government Committee

Letter in Support of SB 741

Dear Representatives:

I am writing to you on behalf of the NAIA Trust, a broad-based animal welfare organization founded in 2001 to provide fact-based answers to complex and controversial issues regarding animals. We are dedicated to securing high standards of animal care and treatment; and to preserving the human-animal bond. Among our members in Michigan are pet owners, hobby breeders, rescuers and animal professionals, scientists and veterinarians.

I urge you to vote yes on SB 741, the bill that would put an end to unnecessary breed specific laws in Michigan. NAIA Trust supports laws that punish irresponsible owners, and restrict ownership of dangerous dogs irrespective of breed or type. Arbitrarily restricting dog ownership by breed or type does nothing for public safety. The public will be better protected by laws that hold ANY dog owner responsible for bad behavior, regardless of breed. Breed specific laws are being overturned across the country as they have demonstrated time and time again to be costly, nearly impossible to enforce, and incredibly ineffective in protecting the public.

As Americans, we enjoy freedom in choosing what type of car to drive, what kind of house to buy, and should also enjoy the freedom to choose what type of dog to own. SB 741 will protect a person's property rights in their interest to responsibly own the breed or type of dog of their choice. Ownership should be conditional upon behavior and responsibility of the owner, not predicated on the breed or type of dog. Punishing or restricting the freedoms of an innocent majority due to the misdeeds of few is not the American way.

Please vote yes on SB 741.

Sincerely,

Sara Chisnell, NAIA Trust Legislative Director