



49651 Shenandoah Circle  
Canton, MI 48187

October 30, 2019

Senator Peter Lucido  
Chair, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee  
Michigan Senate

*Via email: Jackie Mosher, Committee Clerk, [OfcSMCC@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:OfcSMCC@senate.michigan.gov) and [jmosher@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:jmosher@senate.michigan.gov)*

**Re: Support SB 316, 317, Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee Meeting, October 31, 2019**

Dear Sen. Lucido and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information to the committee. Attorneys for Animals, Inc. (AFA) is a Michigan non-profit and 501(c)(3) organization of legal professionals and animal advocates. The organization's Board of Directors voted to **support SB 316 and SB 317, with recommended language to SB 316.**

This bill is in response to a tragic situation that occurred in the metro Detroit area earlier this year involving a dog named Sterling. A man had applied to adopt him from a shelter, but was denied. The man then solicited a friend to adopt Sterling, who did and then turned the dog over to the man. It appears that in the short time this man had Sterling, he abused him and finally beat him to death and left him in a local park during the very cold weather this past winter.

Although we anticipate this fact pattern to be rare, it is so disturbing that it justifies amending the animal crimes statute to specifically criminalize this behavior.

We suggest the following revision to the language:

Page 16, lines 10-11:

10                   (h) knowingly provide an animal to another individual who

11           intends to abuse the animal

would be revised to read:

[www.attorneysforanimals.org](http://www.attorneysforanimals.org)  
[info@attorneysforanimals.org](mailto:info@attorneysforanimals.org)

(h) knowingly provide an animal to another individual who intends to abuse the animal; OR KNOWINGLY ENGAGE IN FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION TO ASSIST AN INDIVIDUAL WHO INTENDS TO ABUSE THE ANIMAL, IN ACQUIRING THE ANIMAL

This additional language will address the facts of the Sterling case with more specificity.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beatrice M. Friedlander". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Beatrice M. Friedlander, JD  
President