

February 17, 2020

Chairman James Lower
House Local Government Committee
Anderson House Office Building
Post Office Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairman Lower and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Michigan voters we represent, the undersigned coalition of organizations is asking for your support of **House Bill 4035** in the House Local Government Committee. A hearing on this bill is scheduled before your committee on Wednesday, February 19, 2020.

As you know, **HB 4035** would protect the individual property rights of all responsible dog owners in our state, while also putting an end to arbitrary and ineffective breed-based laws that do nothing to keep our communities safe. This common-sense approach has been adopted in 22 other states and we are excited for the chance to make Michigan the 23rd name on that list.

It is important to remember that **HB 4035** does not take the authority or responsibility away from our local governments to regulate dangerous dogs and reckless owners. In fact, if enacted, **HB 4035** will strengthen our local dog and owner laws by focusing all communities in Michigan on the underlying problems of individual dog behavior (regardless of breed) and the behavior of reckless owners.

A fundamental goal of **HB 4035** is to achieve safe and humane communities and that is the goal of our collective organizations. We want our communities protected against dangerous dogs and we want abused dogs to be protected from reckless owners. **HB 4035** will help to achieve these goals in our communities and allow our organizations to be proud that Michigan would be the 23rd state in the country to do so.

We, and many Michigan residents, believe in the great need for this common-sense legislation in Michigan. Providing for safe and humane communities, while at the same time protecting the property rights of all Michiganders, is not a partisan issue. **HB 4035** will also maintain local governments' ability to protect their residents by implementing and enforcing laws that focus on problems with dog and reckless owner behavior, regardless of breed.

We hope that you will stand with all the Michiganders who want to see **HB 4035** become law and continue to support the bill and advocate on its behalf to your House colleagues.

Sincerely,

