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February 21, 2022

Rep. Roger Hauck  
Chair, Regulatory Reform Committee  
Michigan House

Via email, Molly Wingrove, [mwingrove@house.mi.gov](mailto:mwingrove@house.mi.gov)

**Re: Support HBs 4881-4882, House Regulatory Reform Committee Meeting, February 22, 2022**

Dear Representative Hauck, Bill Sponsors, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. 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 these bills which we see as an opportunity to allow a "happy ending" for dogs and cats who have served as research subjects.

But they also present an opportunity for Michiganders to weigh in on an issue that generally is left to federal government regulation under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), 7 USC 2131 *et seq.* The AWA takes control away from the states to regulate animals in research settings by setting the minimum standards for treatment of these animals and by delegating enforcement to the USDA. However, states retain authority to determine what happens to the animals after research is completed. With the passage of these bills, Michigan would join at least 12 other states who have taken this approach: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Rhode Island, Washington, Oregon and Virginia. Just last week, an Iowa Senate committee recommended passage of a bill similar to HBs 4881-4882.

The role that Michigan animal control and animal protection shelters play is crucial and will provide the best opportunity for the animals to be placed into secure, loving and permanent homes. The professional and committed people who work and volunteer at our state's shelters have the expertise to ensure that the dogs and cats released to them are given necessary medical attention and are well socialized before being put up for adoption. Importantly, we can rely on their judgment to screen potential adopters (and there are likely to be many who appreciate the opportunity to give a second chance to animals used in research) and find the best home for these special animals.

The (H=1) substitute for HB 4882 pares down the information that research facilities must report, to the number of animals released and animal control or protection shelters to whom they were released. The reporting component is important because it provides some transparency to Michigan citizens

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about the number of cats and dogs – who most people regard as companions if not family members – who are able to begin a new life after being used in research.

The bills you are considering were crafted with a specific and narrow focus. That does not mean they aren't important. They will make a significant difference to the animals given a second chance, and to the loving families who adopt them.

We urge you to report these bills from committee.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beatrice M. Friedlander".

Beatrice M. Friedlander, JD  
President