

Please DO NOT support Goldie's Act (H.R. 1788) and the Puppy Protection Act (H.R. 1624)

August 8, 2023

Dear Representative Miller,

I am one of your constituents from Brecksville and a preservationist dog breeder of the purebred Shiba Inu. My wife and I are members of the National Shiba Club of America, and I am the current President of the Heart of Dixie Shiba Fanciers, Inc. We support reasonable state and federal legislation to combat un reputable dog breeders in Ohio and other states. As you may know Ohio does have a high number of breeders on the USDA published "Horrible Hundred" list (In May 2023 report 13 out 100 were Ohio USDA breeders). We support dog rescue organizations through donations of time and money. Any puppy bred by us is microchipped registered to us and other owners. Each puppy not kept by us is placed in a responsible home that is required to bring back to us in the event of not being able to care of the dog. We rehomed one of our puppies that came back to us, and we have never had one go to a rescue in 15 years. We have never sold to puppy stores.

Please strongly oppose Goldie's Act (H.R. 1788). It would require animals to be removed and potentially euthanized if it is believed there is "psychological harm". It is not clear what this means or who determines this. No one wants to see animals kept in harmful or dangerous conditions, but this provision creates an environment for abuse and unnecessary euthanasia of animals.

Goldie's Act removes a distinction between care and welfare (direct) violations and paperwork/non-welfare related (indirect) violations. While zero violations of any rules or laws should be the goal, the care and wellbeing of animals must always be a priority. Reporting paperwork errors in the same manner as care violations also creates a misleading perception about breeder licensees and creates a new target for animal extremists who use those public databases to identify breeders.

The stated intent is to expand enforcement of federal breeder licensing requirements, but in fact it throws out recent enforcement enhancements currently in the middle of a 3-year implementation process. Instead of improving enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act, it creates confusing and onerous new mandates, and undermines recently established enforcement efforts. Constantly changing arbitrary rules create a confusing, expensive, and potentially harmful environment for animal care in which neither licensees nor regulators may be certain of requirements.

The one-size-fits-all mandates in the Puppy Protection Act (H.R. 1624) undermine animal wellbeing and enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act. It fails to recognize the diversity of licensees and the types or breeds of dogs impacted and could harm to some dogs.

The proposed law will incentivize U.S. breeders to do less breeding while turning the country into a magnet for foreign-bred animals, many of which are not bred responsibly. It is already a crapshoot whether imported dogs are carrying serious diseases. That's because while importation laws require all dogs to have a health certificate, foreign paperwork is commonly invalid or forged, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The issue is particularly concerning because dogs from other countries are not subject to the health and welfare laws of the United States and may arrive carrying serious and infectious canine diseases. Please do not support advancing the Puppy Protection Act or Goldie's Act out of committee or in the Farm Bill. Despite claims being made by animal rights groups, these bills do impact responsible small breeders.

Instead support additional financial resources for USDA so they can appropriately enforce the requirements they already have.

Senator Vance and Brown,

It is my hope these house bills do not move forward to the Senate. In the event they do come before the Senate, please do not support for the reasons listed above.

From: Sherrod Brown <Senator\_Brown@brown.senate.gov>  
Date: Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 9:44 AM  
To: "rgaylord@shomaisou.com" <rgaylord@shomaisou.com>  
Subject: Reply from Senator Sherrod Brown

Dear Mr. Gaylord:

Thank you for sharing your concerns on animal welfare. I share your interest in protecting our canine friends, which is why I have been proud to support the Puppy Protection Act as a cosponsor.

The Puppy Protection Act would create uniform standards for dog breeders across the country. Under this bill, breeders would have to follow new standards regarding the size of kennels, the number of litters a dog may have, the frequency of veterinary screenings, and practices for rehoming dogs who can no longer have new litters. Additionally, breeders would be forbidden from stacking kennels, overcrowding, or euthanizing dogs who can no longer have litters, and they would be required to give dogs under their care at least 30 minutes of socialization and unrestricted access to outdoor recreation daily.

All animals deserve humane and fair treatment. Physical abuse of animals should not be tolerated, and those who violate animal cruelty laws deserve to face the legal consequences of their actions. Throughout my public service career, I have advocated for the humane treatment of animals and the passage of fair and compassionate animal welfare legislation, including the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act (PACT Act), which became law in November 2019.

The PACT Act established federal penalties for the gruesome torture and killing of animals and has made it easier to prosecute those involved in animal cruelty. I was proud to support this important legislation.

My wife and I consider our dogs, Franklin and Walter, to be a part of the family, and I understand the special bond we form with our pets and the respect we should show for all animals. If the Puppy Protection Act is reintroduced in the 118th Congress, please be assured I will keep your advocacy in mind.

Thank you again for being in touch with me.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator

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