

Senator Sheheen,

I appreciate all the effort you and the Pet Care and Humane Treatment Study Committee have put in this fall hearing from interested parties. Watching from afar it appears you have identified some great issues that warrant some legislative attention next year.

As you know I was very involved in all aspects of the bill and reluctantly agreed to pull out the scope of services piece in order to save the other good pieces. Several of the items listed in the study committee section were aimed at collecting data to fully understand who the service providers are, what services they provide and to whom they provide them. I am hopeful that you will be able to get this information so we can determine if legislation is needed in the scope of services area. I want to be clear that I am not interested in any way to limit access to subsidized fundamental public health services (including sterilizations) to any pet owner. The study committee seems to be the best way to gather data in a non-threatening manner to help the General Assembly make informed public policy decisions.

I look forward to your continued good work and if I can be of any help in your endeavors I am glad to do so.

Sincerely,

Rep. Russell Ott

cc
Chairman Hiott
Representative Steve Moss
Joannie Nickel
Gene Hogan