



Minnesota Humane Society

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March 26, 2022

Chair Torrey Westrom
Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3201
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Westrom and members of the committee:

Founded in 1869, the Minnesota Humane Society is the oldest humane society in the state of Minnesota. As a statewide education, advocacy, and rescue organization, we are dedicated to protecting the lives and interests of Minnesota's animals.

On behalf of the Minnesota Humane Society, as well as its supporters statewide, I am writing to express our opposition to Senate File 4280. This bill is harmful to both public safety and the welfare of animals. Senate File 4280 weakens the current Minnesota law, which was passed in 2005. Passage of the current law resulted in a decline in animal attacks and escapes and human injury and death.

Senate File 4280 exempts organizations accredited by the Zoological Association of America (ZAA), such as roadside zoos and backyard menageries, from current law that restricts the possession of dangerous wild animals. At ZAA accredited facilities around the country, people have been injured by captive wild animals and facilities have been cited for unsafe handling of animals, inadequate veterinary care and many other issues. Under Senate File 4280, ZAA accredited facilities would no longer have to register regulated animals with local authorities and comply with other state safety requirements for regulated animals.

For the reasons cited above, we strongly urge you to oppose Senate File 4280. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Challeen
Director, Minnesota Humane Society