

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 258
Date: Friday, January 23, 2026 1:35:40 PM
Attachments: [IMG_5444.heic](#)

Hello! One of the rescues I follow on social media suggested supporters reach out to their representatives about this awesome new proposed program providing spay/neuter assistance.

I understand that it hasn't moved past committee yet, but wanted to voice my vociferous support, and pledge to contact whomever I need to when the time is right!

Frankly, my marriage depends on it- I live in a cat colony due to this problem. We have too many cats to admit to anyone due to our problems 'foster failing'.

Why is it a low income spay problem? We started fostering with a very sick, parasite-laden momma cat and her litter who were part of a perennial colony of unfixed "outside" cats from a local trailer park a couple of years ago. The people who owned her surrendered her due to not wanting to deal with her kittens. We later discovered that she was pregnant again, an estimated third litter in her brief 18 months of life. She gave birth here- half the litter dead on arrival, and one of the two surviving kittens barely big enough to survive. Of course, being suckers we adopted the whole lot- Mama and her two litters. The life she was living was not acceptable, and we couldn't conceive of even thinking that she'd be in that kind of situation ever again. It sounds like it is all too common, particularly in areas where residents struggle to find the resources to fix their pets. It has been transformative watching her blossom from a starved, sick, dull eyed nuisance animal to a shiny, confident and loving family member.

I donate to rescue, but I'd be just as happy to contribute to a fund that helps low income families enjoy the blessing of a beloved pet, without worrying that they can't afford to provide this very basic- yet expensive- service for them. I'd find it especially rewarding, knowing that this process helps prevent the waves of future rescues and preventable death and illness of these little lives, and I know I'm not the only one, particularly since it doesn't look like the economy will be permitting us any grandchildren any time soon.

Thanks for taking on this important issue.

Obligatory cat tax- two of the babies: the calico is the tiny Bean, still kitten sized as an adult, and the ginger from Momma's 2nd litter.

IMG_5444.heic



Laura Muller, Anchorage

From: [Grace Asselin](#)
To: [Rebecca Asselin](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 258
Date: Saturday, January 24, 2026 9:00:28 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

There is strong support for House Bill 258 throughout Alaskan communities. In the Bering Straits (Norton Sound) Region, communities struggle without regular animal care/control enforcement and access to health care.

The unmanaged litters propagate public health and safety hazards, and manageable situations quickly escalate out of control. People and pets are injured or killed from accidents caused by loose/stray animals. With no one regulating animal care/control laws, the unmanaged litters propagate the spread of infectious diseases (parvo, distemper, rabies) and increase the number of neglected and abandoned dogs/puppies. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life services in these rural municipalities.

Alaska needs this House Bill, and it is my sincere hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,
Grace Asselin

> On Jan 24, 2026, at 4:21 PM, Rebecca Asselin <akrebecca76@gmail.com> wrote:

>
>
>

> To Whom it May Concern,

>

> There is strong support for House Bill 258 throughout Alaskan communities. In the Bering Straits (Norton Sound) Region, communities struggle without regular animal care/control enforcement and access to health care.

>

> The unmanaged litters propagate public health and safety hazards, and manageable situations quickly escalate out of control. People and pets are injured or killed from accidents caused by loose/stray animals. With no one regulating animal care/control laws, the unmanaged litters propagate the spread of infectious diseases (parvo, distemper, rabies) and increase the number of neglected and abandoned dogs/puppies. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life services in these rural municipalities.

>

> Alaska needs this House Bill, and it is my sincere hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans.

>

> Sincerely,

> Rebecca Asselin

> Animal Lover, 30 year Vegetarian, Rescue donor & Pet foster parent

> Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jane Burris-Cofsky](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Strong support for House Bill 258
Date: Saturday, January 24, 2026 8:00:06 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

To Whom it May Concern,



As a registered voter in Bethel, Alaska I can attest to the need for House Bill 258. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life services in these rural municipalities. We donate to Bethel Friends of K9's several times a year, they cannot be everywhere and the need is so great in villages.

" With no one regulating animal care/control laws, the unmanaged litters propagate the spread of infectious diseases (parvo, distemper, rabies) and increase the number of neglected and abandoned dogs/puppies. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life

services in these rural municipalities"
Emily Stotts
Animal Services Officer

Alaska needs this House Bill, and it is my sincere hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Jane Burris-Cofsky & Glenn Cofsky

From: [Kaitlin Topkok](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: House Bill 258
Date: Saturday, January 24, 2026 3:46:48 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

There is strong support for House Bill 258 throughout Alaskan communities. In the Bering Straits (Norton Sound) Region, communities struggle without regular animal care/control enforcement and access to health care.

The unmanaged litters propagate public health and safety hazards, and manageable situations quickly escalate out of control. People and pets are injured or killed from accidents caused by loose/stray animals. With no one regulating animal care/control laws, the unmanaged litters propagate the spread of infectious diseases (parvo, distemper, rabies) and increase the number of neglected and abandoned dogs/puppies. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life services in these rural municipalities.

Alaska needs this House Bill, and it is my sincere hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,
Emily Stotts
Animal Services Officer

From: [julia harry](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 258
Date: Sunday, January 25, 2026 3:44:50 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Julia Harry. I am a licensed veterinary technician in South Central Alaska. I work in shelter medicine and volunteer with Alaska Rural Veterinary Outreach. I am writing to encourage your support for House Bill 258.

There is strong support for House Bill 258 throughout Alaskan communities. Even within a 3 hour drive of Anchorage, communities struggle without regular animal care/control enforcement and access to health care.

The unmanaged litters propagate public health and safety hazards, and manageable situations quickly escalate out of control. People and pets are injured or killed from accidents caused by loose/stray animals. With no one regulating animal care/ control laws, the unmanaged litters propagate the spread of infectious diseases (parvo, distemper, rabies) and increase the number of neglected and abandoned dogs/puppies. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life services in these rural municipalities.

Alaska needs this House Bill, and it is my sincere hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety for all Alaskans.

Respectfully,
Julia Harry, LVT

From: [Christine Hommel](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: WRITING IN SUPPORT OF HB258- Christina Hommel
Date: Sunday, January 25, 2026 8:22:27 AM

Dear Members of the Legislature,

I am writing in support of House Bill 258, which establishes a statewide spay and neuter assistance program to address animal overpopulation in Alaska in a proactive, humane, and fiscally responsible way.

Communities across the state—particularly rural and underserved areas—face ongoing challenges related to uncontrolled dog and cat populations. These challenges strain local governments, shelters, and nonprofits, while also impacting public safety and animal welfare. HB 258 takes a preventative approach by supporting spay and neuter services, reducing the need for costly reactive enforcement and sheltering over time.

I appreciate that this program is voluntary, flexible, and designed to target areas with the greatest need and limited access to veterinary care. The use of dedicated funding mechanisms, such as specialty license plates and voluntary Permanent Fund Dividend contributions, allows Alaskans who care about animal welfare to support meaningful solutions without relying on general funds.

By investing in prevention, HB 258 will help lower long-term costs, improve public health and safety, and promote responsible pet ownership statewide. I urge your support for this thoughtful and cost-effective legislation.

LETS DO IT!!!!

Thanks to Nick, Rexford and Stapp for helping with this!

Christina Hommel (North Pole resident who also works in animal welfare)

ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #2026-22

A resolution in support of a statewide spay and neuter program.

WHEREAS, communities across Alaska face ongoing challenges related to pet overpopulation, animal welfare, and the financial burden of sheltering unwanted animals; and

WHEREAS, spaying and neutering are effective, humane methods for reducing stray populations, shelter intake, euthanasia rates, and associated public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, expanding access to affordable sterilization services – potentially funded through specialty license plate sales and Pick.Click.Give contributions – would help reduce the financial burden on municipalities, nonprofits, and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, a statewide program would provide resources and technical support to strengthen local efforts in animal safety and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League supports the creation of a statewide spay and neuter program, implemented in collaboration with municipalities, veterinarians, and animal welfare organizations.

Adopted by the majority of AML members at the Annual Business Meeting, December 12, 2025.

From: [Diane Schenker](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Please Support HB 258 for a Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Program
Date: Sunday, January 25, 2026 7:44:57 PM

Dear Resource Committee Chairs and Members,

Please support HB 258. Please help the many pets in need, who cannot speak for themselves but must rely on us for humane treatment and help. The more spay/neuter resources we have, the better our animal control agencies and our amazing statewide army of volunteers can help pets in need without being overwhelmed.

I have volunteered with several pet rescue groups, have personally rescued numerous abandoned animals, and am also a volunteer foster for Anchorage Animal Care and Control. In addition to the numerous individuals and groups helping pets all over Alaska, I very much appreciate the massive spay/neuter efforts of the Alaska Rural Veterinary Organization and numerous air services who also pitch in to help, often entirely at their own expense, to get abandoned/unwanted pets to larger populations centers for spay/neuter or other medical care as well as to find homes. But even with Alaska's outstanding network of good people doing what they can, the need exceeds the resources. We need more spay/neutering help in this state: education, outreach, intervention, incentives, and funding.

I applaud Representative Will Stapp for sponsoring this bill and encourage each of you to not only support it but to add your names as co-sponsors.

Thank you for considering this worthwhile program.

Diane Schenker
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99507
[REDACTED]

From: [Karen Deatherage](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB-258
Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 12:41:16 PM

I am writing to SUPPORT HB-258 which will create a statewide Spay/Neuter assistance fund and program in Alaska. My name is Karen Deatherage and I have lived in Alaska for over 30 years. I currently live in Fairbanks, Alaska and have 7 rescue huskies. I am actively involved in dog rescue as well as helping residents recover their lost dogs.

I consider the current overpopulation of dogs and cats in Alaska an epidemic. The local animal shelters are consistently over capacity and rescue organizations have little to no space left to help surrendered or abandoned animals. Not a week goes by where I'm not asked to foster or adopt a husky. These requests largely originate from animals coming in from the villages. Many of us involved in these efforts are exhausted and discouraged because we can no longer keep up with the number of animals.

When I first started volunteering to help rescue dogs, they were mostly adults, largely in their senior years. In fact, the first rescue I adopted was 13 years old. Since that time, I have seen huge numbers of puppies coming into rescue. These puppies are mostly mixed breed, from medium to large size. They are becoming harder and harder to place because there are so many, including at the local animal shelter. Some are simply abandoned on the streets, while others are found at dumps and transfer sites.

The costs to spay/neuter, at least in the Fairbanks area, has become exorbitant. I received an estimate from a local veterinarian office of \$600 to neuter a healthy 1.5 year old rescue husky. Most people cannot afford that. Thankfully I was able to get him into the ASAP – Alaska Spay/Neuter Assistance Program for \$100. This program is consistently booked, however, especially for spays which generally take more time and expertise.

I believe the State's adoption of a spay/neuter program under **HB-258** will greatly reduce the number of unwanted dogs, cats, puppies and kittens throughout Alaska. Without it, more and more animals will be dispatched in our shelters or roam feral on our streets.

I appreciate your support of **HB-258**.

Karen Deatherage

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99709

[REDACTED]

From: [Daniel Reichardt](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Supportive of HB258 - Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Program
Date: Monday, January 26, 2026 12:24:12 PM

Dear Members of the House Resources Committee -

I am writing in support of HB 258, to establish and fund a Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Program. I am sure that you will receive many public comments describing the reasons that public funding and publicly sponsored awareness campaigns for spay and neuter assistance is good policy. I am in agreement with that sentiment and also want to emphasize the importance of advancing well crafted legislation such as this, which is built around points of broad agreement.

HB258 looks to me like an expertly crafted bill which:

1. identifies a problem which burdens local government (unwanted cats and dogs being born and, living as strays and filling our animal shelters);
2. identifies two causes of this problem (spaying and neutering is an expense that some people don't feel like they can afford and is a responsibility that some pet owners aren't fully aware of);
3. proposes low cost resources to mitigate these causes (private veterinarians willing to do spay/neuter at a discount, state employees well positioned to raise awareness as part of their various duties); and
4. establishes a funding source which does not pull from our limited General Fund (private donations and/or federal funding).

We have really important work this legislative session, and our state government has not given us much reason to have faith that the House, Senate and Governor are prepared to find points of consensus on some of the more intractable issues before you. With this bill, Representative Stapp has giftwrapped you a very simple piece of uncontroversial legislation that costs little, benefits all of us and is responsive to a passionate group of people interested in humane treatment of animals. I urge you to take this opportunity to collaborate with each other to move forward this well crafted piece of legislation early in the session and then apply the positive momentum and mutual good will engendered by this bill towards some of the more difficult issues you face this year.

Thank you for your service,
Dan Reichardt

--

Daniel A. Reichardt
[REDACTED] Fairbanks AK 99709
[REDACTED]

From: [Kelly Donnelly](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 258
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 8:25:49 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-uqufiw5d.png](#)

Good morning, Rep. Stapp,

I read with great interest HB 258. It's a terrific concept; am wondering if you'd like some technical assistance and support?

The Alaska SPCA (not affiliated in any way with ASPCA) is the state's oldest animal welfare organization and largest provider of spay/neuter services. Each year we provide approximately 5,000 spay/neuter surgeries to both owned and shelter pets. We operate a brick and mortar low-cost veterinary clinic in Anchorage, provide mobile outreach clinic services across the state, host a small shelter for dogs and cats from across the state, and provide a wide range of services intended to keep pets healthy and pet families together. You can learn more about the Alaska SPCA and our work at www.alaskaspca.org.

Not only am I pleased to see the idea of a voluntary S/N fund, but also that you've included language in the bill to address feral and community pets. This has been a serious point of contention for those of us in the animal welfare sphere and the Board of Game. We have national partners working with us on advocacy efforts and this would go a long way to help.

Please let me know if you or one of your staff members would like to chat. I have Friday's committee hearing on my calendar and am available to join if you're interested.

Bottom line: Let me know how I can help. This is important. Let's work together.

Warmly,

Kelly Donnelly, Executive Director/CEO
3710 Woodland Dr., #1200
Anchorage, AK 99517
Phone: 907-743-3928 (direct)
Email: kdonnelly@alaskaspca.org

[Book a meeting](#) *Please let me know if you need more than 30 minutes.*



www.alaskaspca.org **DONATE TODAY!**

From: [Ronnie Rosenberg](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 258
Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 11:01:35 AM

I am writing to ask for your support for HB 258 to provide statewide spay and neuter services for domestic animals. I have been involved in animal welfare issues since moving to Alaska in 1991. I have fostered and adopted many special needs animals from the Fairbanks North Star Borough Shelter and have served on the Borough Animal Control Commission for over a decade. In 2002, along with others, I founded the Fairbanks Animal Shelter Fund, a 501(c)(3) to provide services to animals beyond what is allocated in the Borough budget.

There is a very great need for a comprehensive spay and neuter program in this state. It will benefit both the animals and the communities. I am hoping this measure passes and is signed into law.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ronnie Rosenberg
Two Rivers, Alaska

From: [Mariko Shirazi](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Support for HB 258
Date: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 9:30:30 AM

Dear Representatives Niayuq Frier and Dibert,

I am writing to express my heartfelt support of HB 258, Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Program. The current situation across our State is heartbreaking and demoralizing, with so many unwanted dogs pouring into rescues and shelters across our State. Rescues have become full and overwhelmed, begging for more foster families so they can bring in more animals; Some rescues have had to shut down, at least temporarily, due to financial, emotional, and/or physical exhaustion; the Shelters are also repeatedly over capacity and having to turn away any new animals. Increasing access to low cost spay/neuter services is the first and most important step that can be made to improve the situation. This will help the families who care but cannot afford and/or for whom there are no local services available, and it will help promote a culture that others will follow. The financial and healthy and safety aspects are important, but equally important is emotional well being and morale and the current situation is taking a toll on everybody.

Thank you,

Mariko Shirazi

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99709

[REDACTED]

From:

[Miranda Musich](#)

To:



Date:

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 1:11:35 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

There is strong support for House Bill 258 throughout Alaskan communities. In the Bering Strait (Norton Sound) Region, communities struggle without regular animal care/control enforcement and access to health care. Those that do work in those areas, are often volunteers, or are underpaid and underappreciated.

The unmanaged litters propagate public health and safety hazards, and manageable situations quickly escalate out of control. People and pets are injured or killed from accidents caused by loose/stray animals. With no one regulating animal care/control laws, the unmanaged litters propagate the spread of infectious diseases (parvo, distemper, rabies) and increases the number of neglected and abandoned dogs/puppies. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life services in these rural municipalities.

Alaska needs this House Bill, and it is my sincere hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans. In a region where dogs are used as companions, friends, and even early warning protections against polar bears, I cannot stress the importance of this program for human and animal safety and wellbeing.

Sincerely,

Miranda B. Musich

From: [Cyndie Warbelow](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 258
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 6:07:12 PM
Attachments: [Screenshot 2026-01-25 at 11.31.24AM.png](#)

Hello...I urge all of you to support HB258, Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Program. The inhumanity of our allowing, and in some cases encouraging, the breeding and production of so many unwanted animals is the primary reason to support this bill. Personally I have adopted multiple cats from rescue organizations and many have lived to 18 or 20 years in age and one actually lived a documented 22 years. I agreed to foster and ultimately adopt an abandoned dove who lived with me for 26 years.

It is so easy for people to allow a cat or a dog to have a litter, or maybe litters, of kittens or puppies with no responsibility for assuring those kittens and puppies will have a home for 15 or 20 years. We know how to prevent that ...spaying and neutering. In a perfect world, pet owners would take on that responsibility themselves, but in many cases the cost is a deterring factor or at least one that can be used as an excuse. HB2538 is not only a big step toward reducing the number of unwanted animals without the home they deserve, but it also will save public money that goes toward our overloaded animal shelters and to animal control costs.

This is my verbal explanation for my support of this bill, but the attached notice posted recently on FaceBook by the FNSB Animal Shelter says much more succinctly why we need HB258. Our shelter has posted this message numerous times just this winter. The private animal rescues in Fairbanks are also often at capacity. We cannot find long term homes for all the animals we are currently allowing to be produced. Please support HB258.

Cyndie Warbelow

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, Alaska. 99712

From: [linda heck](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [House Resources](#)
Subject: support for AK HB 258, Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Fund and Program
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 11:58:50 PM

Hello,

I am writing today in support of AK HB 258, Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Fund and Program. As a responsible pet owner, lifelong Fairbanksan, and former FNSB Animal Shelter volunteer, I am encouraged to see HB 258 being considered this year. Preventing unplanned pregnancies of pets is much less expensive than continuously contending with unwanted pet births. Too often people can't afford to get their pet(s) spayed or neutered, only to then have litters of offspring which they also cannot afford to care for. Sure, baby animals are cute, often until they grow up enough to lose the youthful cuteness and then end up unwanted at the local continuously full animal shelter. Endless unplanned pet births are just not sustainable for our communities. The local animal rescues are also seemingly always at their capacity limits and asking for more community help. As I said, it's just not sustainable, nor is it humane to the animals.

Please consider the positive benefits for our communities, and the welfare of domestic animals, and approve this bill to move forward. Then, when it is up for floor vote, please support this bill with a "yes" vote.

Thank you,

Linda Heck

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709
[REDACTED]

From: [Trail Breaker Veterinary Services](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: House bill 258
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:13:38 PM

To those representing Alskans,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 258, which proposes the creation of a state fund to help cover the costs of spaying and neutering in Alaska. I live in Anchorage and provide veterinary services throughout the state. I work part time at Alaska SPCA performing high volume, high quality spay neuter. I also own my own practice Trail Breaker Veterinary Services, which travels to communities around the state that do not have local veterinary options.

As a provider of veterinary services, I see firsthand the importance of accessible population control programs. This bill would provide essential resources to help manage the pet population and improve animal welfare throughout our state. By reducing the financial barrier for pet owners, we can ensure a healthier environment for both animals and our communities. I know many veterinarians who care deeply about pets and their families and try everything we can to make these services affordable. At the end of the day though, medicine costs money and the medical providers cannot be the ones footing the bill for the services we provide. This is how providers burn out and it's a huge part of why there aren't more veterinarians providing services, especially in remote places that need it most. Even in Anchorage, most people bring their pet to SPCA, from all over the road system, because it is less expensive. This means non profits are driving public health services in the state. It would extremely wise for the state to contribute to preventative population control measures, in the form of reliable spay neuter assistance and education.

The other end of the pet overpopulation problem is not just rabies and dog bites. It is animal control officers and community members being forced to euthanize high numbers of healthy animals, because there is no where to put them, to the point that it impacts their mental health. They do not have the resources to support what is being asked of them, and it is damaging good people. I've also heard storied of ACOs being asked to euthanize whole litters of kittens and they just cannot do it, which in turn leads to feral cat overpopulation and increased disease risk. There is plenty of research about spay neuter programs solving overpopulation problems, but they need funding. If they are always reliant on non profits, it means our state health is in the hands of unpaid, or underpaid, passionate people who can chose at any time to stop attaining funding. Then the programs go away. State funding is the only way to make public health programs reliable.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important legislation.

Best regards,
Dr. Emily Iacobucci DVM
Owner and Veterinarian
Trail Breaker Veterinary Services

From: [Shauna Nickel](#)
Subject: HB 258
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:04:29 PM

As an animal rescue volunteer, I have special insight into the following issue. Without proper oversight, unmanaged animal populations quickly create serious public health and safety risks. What begin as manageable situations often escalate, resulting in injuries to both people and pets caused by loose or stray animals. The lack of animal care and control enforcement allows uncontrolled breeding to continue, contributing to the spread of infectious diseases such as parvovirus, distemper, and rabies, and increasing the number of neglected and abandoned dogs and puppies. The situation is tragic and heartbreaking.

Shauna Nickel
Anchorage Resident

-

From: [Valerie Amos](#)

To: [REDACTED]

Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 9:33:26 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

There is strong support for House Bill 258 throughout Alaskan communities. In the Bering Straits (Norton Sound) Region, communities struggle without regular animal care/control enforcement and access to health care.

The unmanaged litters propagate public health and safety hazards, and manageable situations quickly escalate out of control. People and pets are injured or killed from accidents caused by loose/stray animals. With no one regulating animal care/control laws, the unmanaged litters propagate the spread of infectious diseases (parvo, distemper, rabies) and increase the number of neglected and abandoned dogs/puppies. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life services in these rural municipalities.

Alaska needs this House Bill, and it is my sincere hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans.

From: [Laura Atwood](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 258
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 8:02:23 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

If you live in Alaska, you have surely heard this conversation between two dog owners: "What kind of dog is that?" "She's a village dog."

There are countless numbers of village dogs throughout rural Alaska, a result of a lack of veterinary services, specifically spay/neuter services. The impacts of free-roaming dogs on the communities in which they live include injury to people and pets, the spread of infectious diseases such as parvo, distemper, and rabies, and the emotional toll on residents and community safety officers when dogs are shot to reduce the population. The dogs themselves suffer - living their lives with no consistent access to food and water, and no shelter from Alaska's weather. Finally, while some of these dogs find their way to Anchorage through non-profit rescues, the municipal shelter and many rescues are already full of dogs in need of homes. It is not possible to find enough good homes with responsible owners for all of these dogs.

Alaska needs this House Bill. I sincerely hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 for the public health and safety of Alaskans and for the dogs.

Sincerely,
Laura Atwood

From: [Pam Evans](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Support HB 258
Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 11:20:03 AM

I am asking for your support for HB 258, statewide spay/neuter assistance program. As a foster I know first hand, how important this bill is. There are not enough homes, rescues are overflowing, animals young and adults are being dumped to die. It is a safety hazard to people and their pets with the spread of infectious diseases like parvo, distemper, & rabies. So much suffering can be stopped by having a spay/neuter assistance program to reduce the high number of animals being born. I urge you to please pledge your full support for HB 258

Sincerely
Pam Evans

From: [Yvette OConnor](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 258
Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 12:37:34 AM

Dear Representatives,

Please support House Bill 258 throughout Alaskan communities. In so many village/rural regions, communities struggle without regular animal care/control enforcement and access to health care.


The unmanaged litters propagate public health and safety hazards, and manageable situations quickly escalate out of control. People and pets are injured or killed from accidents caused by loose/stray animals. With no one regulating animal care/control laws, the unmanaged litters propagate the spread of infectious diseases (parvo, distemper, rabies) and increase the number of neglected and abandoned dogs/puppies. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life services in these rural municipalities.

I personally know non-profit groups that do all in their power to help these dogs, but they are overwhelmed and can't keep up.

Alaska needs this House Bill, and it is my sincere hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans, as well as the many innocent animals in harms way.

Thank you.

Yvette O'Connor

 Certified Animal Rehabilitation Therapist
Expawmation A.R.T.

From: [Sarah Maxwell](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Support for house bill 258
Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 3:33:06 AM

I apologize, Im not sure why it was like that.

Dear Members of the Legislature,

I am writing in support of House Bill 258, which establishes a statewide spay and neuter assistance program to address animal overpopulation in a proactive, humane, and fiscally responsible way.

Communities across Alaska, especially rural and underserved areaa, continue to face challenges from uncontrolled dog and cat populations, placing strain on local governments, shelters, and public safety resources. By focusing on prevention, HB 258 helps reduce long-term costs while improving animal welfare and community health.

I appreciate that this program is voluntary, flexible, and supported through dedicated funding options rather than general funds. HB 258 represents a thoughtful, cost-effective solution, and I urge your support.

Sincerely,
Sarah Maxwell

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am writing in support of House Bill 258, which establishes a statewide spay and neuter assistance program to address animal overpopulation in a proactive, humane, and fiscally responsible way.

Communities across Alaska, especially rural and underserved areas, continue to face challenges from uncontrolled dog and cat populations, placing strain on local governments, shelters, and public safety resources. By focusing on prevention, HB 258 helps reduce long-term costs while improving animal welfare and community health.

I appreciate that this program is voluntary, flexible, and supported through dedicated funding options rather than general funds. HB 258 represents a thoughtful, cost-effective solution, and I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Sarah Maxwell

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: HB 258
Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 7:24:57 AM

From: Margaret Cloud [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2026 12:29 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 258

I am very pleased to learn that House Bill 258 has been introduced, An Act establishing a statewide spay and neuter assistance fund; establishing the statewide spay and neuter assistance program; relating to municipal control of feral domestic dogs and cats; relating to companion animal spay and neuter special request registration plates; relating to contributions from permanent fund dividends; and providing for an effective date.

These are some key points that need to be discussed:

- It is extremely difficult for people in remote areas to access vet care due to a lack of local vets and the difficulty in reaching a vet.
- The cost for vet care has been increasing, particularly due to private practices being purchased by corporations.
- Transporting animals to vets is extremely difficult due to a lack of roads and the distance, with small aircraft often as the only option.
- Some remote communities have been served by programs such as Good Fix (through Greater Good) however these programs only visit areas without a vet and are only in a community for a few days once a year.
- Fewer than 50% of companion pets (cats and dogs) receive any vaccinations, a very serious issue if a person is bit and the rabies vaccination status of the animal is unknown.
- It is currently illegal to practice trap/neuter/vaccinate/return in Alaska according to 5 AAC 92.029 (b) The following species, not including a hybrid of a game animal and a species listed in this subsection, may be possessed, imported, exported, bought, sold, or traded without a permit from the department **but may not be released into the wild: Common Name Scientific Name Dog *Canis familiaris* Cat *Felis catus* ...**

Passage of HB 258 will greatly assist Ketchikan Community Cats Program (KCCP) a very small all volunteer animal rescue program that started about 9 years ago to help a limited number of abandoned and stray cats. Two and a half years ago the number of stray cats expanded dramatically and as a result the program continues to expand to meet the growing needs of Ketchikan, Saxman, Metlakatla, Edna Bay, and all communities on Prince of Wales Island (POW). In February 2025, KCCP became a 501 (c)(3). In November 2025 KCCP expanded Pet Food Pantries to Metlakatla and all communities on POW.

In addition to providing pet food, the pantry volunteers in Metlakatla and POW work with community members to apply for the Ketchikan Humane Society (KHS) low-cost subsidized altering program, SNIP. Although the SNIP program pays the majority of the cost for altering, owners are still responsible for transporting animals to Ketchikan and paying for vaccinations. KCCP usually coordinates transport of pets to Ketchikan by air through Taquan Air or by boat using the Inner Island Ferry (IFA) or the Alaska Marine Highway from Metlakatla. While in Ketchikan for altering, KCCP houses cats and dogs and ensures that the animals get to the vet for surgery. Since most pet owners in the remote communities are low income, KCCP usually covers the rabies and combo vaccinations when animals are altered.

KCCP has been constantly working to control the population of cats in colonies by working with concerned community members. KCCP uses best practices by trapping, altering, and vaccinating adult cats before returning cats to managed colony settings with a dedicated feeder (TNR). KCCP has been able to use the KHS feral cat altering vouchers for most strays but stills pays for the rabies, combo, and leukemia vaccinations for each cat. Releasing fully vaccinated cats to managed colonies helps reduce the spread of diseases to owned inside/outside cats.

When trapping in colonies, all kittens are brought into rescue and placed in homes after being altered and vaccinated. The average cost to alter and vaccinate a kitten/cat is \$250 - a discounted rate - while the adoption fee for a kitten is \$130 and the adoption fee for an adult is \$30. KCCP averages at least \$2,000 per month in vet bills.

Additional money is needed to continue and to expand programs for altering cats and dogs in order to stop the overwhelming number of kittens and puppies born each year, particularly in areas without any vet services or extremely limited services. The financial burden on communities is enormous. For instance, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Animal Protection department spends approximately \$20 per day per animal for animals at the shelter. Some animals have been at the shelter in excess of one year. This results in a cost of over \$7,200 for a single animal. Passage of HB 258 is a step in the right direction.

From: [JoAnna Tomuro](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: I support HB 258 - the statewide spay/neuter assistance program
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 4:37:55 PM

TO:
Representative Robyn Niayuq Frier, Co-Chair
Representative Maxine Dibert, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
120 4th St., Room 3
Juneau, AK 99801

DATE: Jan 29, 2026

RE: I support HB 258 - the statewide spay/neuter assistance program

I am originally from Oahu. As an adult, I learned about TNR and learned "how to" TNR in Hawaii. Although Hawaii is a whole different beast as far as community cat numbers, I never want to see Alaska become that way -- I fully support responsible TNR(TNVR) in Alaska and the statewide spay/neuter assistance program. I have proven cases with data tracking over years on how colony management works successfully and would be happy to share my stories and statistics if needed.

The practice of spaying and neutering cats and vaccinating them:

- Gradually reduces the number of community cats over time
- Keeps cats healthier and less likely to contract and transmit disease
- Trap-Neuter-Return is humane
- Killing community cats is cruel, unnecessary, and avoidable
- Every cat we stabilize through TNR is one life spared from the shelter kill list
- Dramatically decreases the fighting of unfixated cats or the odor of intact toms marking their territory
- Encourages cats to stay close to their home base, while still helping with rodent control

TNR done responsibly = success to reduce cat overpopulation

As an independent cat rescuer, I have helped about 100 cats each year since 2021. I am not a rescue and I am not a non-profit. I spend my personal wages helping about 60 cats each year with spay/neuter, microchips, dewormer, vaccinations, etc. I loan equipment: traps, cages, carriers, etc. and coach individuals on how to help the cat they are feeding outside or have brought inside.

Sincerely,
JoAnna Tomuro
Independent Cat Rescuer

PO Box 190664
Anchorage, AK 99519



From: [Cherie Northon](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB 258
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 3:42:42 PM

Dear all,

I am writing in strong support of HB 258 which would help reduce the number of dogs and puppies that are born due to lack of access to spay/neuter and other resources. While I have adopted several strays over the years, I have the resources (money and access) here in Anchorage to help improve their lives and give them good homes. Sadly, this is not the case too often in the bush.

The upfront investment would truly pay huge dividends in the long run in terms of animal suffering as well as making the villages safer for their inhabitants. I'm a longtime supporter of Alaska Rural Veterinary Outreach (ARVO) and Straw for Dogs (S4D)--two organizations for which there are so many more needs than they can accommodate. There is no downside to this proposal, please do everything you can to pass this!

Thank you,
Cherie

--

Cherie Northon, Ph.D.
Anchorage, Alaska
907.529.2368

From: [Diana Sparacino](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: HB258 Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Program
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 2:45:06 PM

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in full support of the proposed Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Program, HB258, sponsored by interior legislator Will Stapp.

The overpopulation of dogs and cats in our communities and for individuals, both rural and urban, has created undue burdens on the residents of our state and is an ethical, humane, and moral reflection of the health we provide both pets and working animals of which there are thousands in the state. My support comes from my 44 years living in the state, supporting the ever growing rescue organizations and the Fairbanks Animal Shelter Fund, and being a pet owner.

A statewide assistance program will provide much needed population control, especially in rural areas where it is difficult to non-existent to access spaying and neutering care and where it is often cost prohibitive to fly / leave a community to do so. Unintentional dogs and cat births create overcrowding in our municipal financed shelters and the ever growing rescue and foster organizations, financial stress on both, inhumane and abandonment situation, and of course euthanasia due to overcrowding alone.

This is also a good opportunity for not only financial relief for communities, shelters and rescues but can promote safety, healthy, and responsible pet ownership statewide.

This kind of program is a win and long overdue relief in such an animal hefty state.

Please move this bill forward.

Thank you for an opportunity to comment.

Diana Sparacino
Fairbanks, Alaska

From: keown@mtaonline.net
Subject: House Bill 258 a statewide spay/neuter assistance program
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 2:21:19 PM

January 30, 2026

To Whom it May Concern,

There is strong support for House Bill 258 throughout Alaskan communities. In the Bering Straits (Norton Sound) Region, communities struggle without regular animal care/control enforcement and access to health care. It is incredibly sad to see what how inhumane humans are. So many animals are shot or just dumped alive to die a slow death. The animal rescue people are just angels to these animals but they can't save them all and rely on donations to stay afloat.

The unmanaged litters propagate public health and safety hazards, and manageable situations quickly escalate out of control. People and pets are injured or killed from accidents caused by loose/stray animals. With no one regulating animal care/control laws, the unmanaged litters propagate the spread of infectious diseases (parvo, distemper, rabies) and increase the number of neglected and abandoned dogs/puppies. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life services in these rural municipalities.

Alaska needs this House Bill, and it is my sincere hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,
Patricia Keown

From: [Humane Society Of Kodiak](#)
To: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: Support for HB-258 Statewide Spay and Neuter Program
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 2:05:26 PM

January 29, 2026

Dear Co-Chairs Frier and Dilbert & Members of the Health Resources Committee,

The Board of Directors of the Humane Society of Kodiak wholeheartedly supports the passage of *HB-258 Statewide Spay and Neuter Assistance Program* and encourages you to vote in favor of its approval in committee.

Humane Society of Kodiak (HSK) supports HB-258 because it offers a proactive, cost-effective, and humane solution to the problem of pet overpopulation in Alaska. Establishing a statewide spay and neuter assistance program will benefit animal welfare, reduce municipal and animal shelter expenses, and promote healthy communities statewide. In addition to creating a framework for a self-supporting program, it will enhance educational outreach to empower Alaskans to make informed choices that result in positive, long-term outcomes for their pets and families.

Kodiak Archipelago is facing many of the same issues brought by uncontrolled dog and cat populations as seen statewide. HSK is contracted to manage and operate the city's Kodiak Animal Shelter, providing care for pets from the City, Borough, and six outlying villages on Kodiak Island. HSK relies on donations and grants to support the daily care of shelter animals and sterilization procedures for any pet in their care. HSK spent over \$41,000 in the last fiscal year ending June 2025 for spay/neuter procedures with the local vet clinic. This cost continues to rise year to year.

The high cost of veterinary care combined with Alaska's high cost of living, contribute to pet overpopulation. For those facing financial challenges, prioritizing living expenses often means that spaying or neutering pets is postponed or forgone entirely. Kodiak, like many communities in Alaska, has a significant gap between the community's needs and the resources available to address pet overpopulation.

HB-258 represents a significant step to begin to address pet overpopulation in Alaska. This bill would assist pet owners who may otherwise be unable to afford sterilization procedures for their animals. It would help organizations such as HSK and communities across the State who must deal with the results of pet overpopulation. By enabling partnerships and funding mechanisms through donations and specialized license plate fees, House Bill 258 would reduce reliance on general funds. It will empower Alaskans who care about animal welfare to directly contribute to effective solutions for pet overpopulation, supporting shelters, municipalities and underserved communities in their efforts to ensure responsible pet ownership.

Please support HB-258!

Thank you!

Linda J. Lance

President, Humane Society of Kodiak

--



Humane Society of Kodiak

humanesocietyofkodiak@gmail.com

www.humanesocietyofkodiak.org

[Find us on Facebook](#)

[Follow us on Instagram](#)

Dear Representatives:

I am writing to formally express my strong support for House Bill 258 and to respectfully urge your advocacy for its passage. I am a Board Member and volunteer for Alaska Rural Veterinary Outreach, Inc. (www.akrvo.org). However, I am writing this letter as an animal-loving citizen who would like to urge you to please do everything in your power to get this bill passed.

For the past 15 years, I have poured my love, energy, and time into helping reduce the pain and suffering for dogs and cats in remote Alaskan communities. There are more than 200 remote communities in Alaska that can only be reached by boat or bush plane. Most residents have dogs, either for hunting, mushing, or as bear and guard dogs. However, usually there is NO ACCESS TO LOCAL VETERINARY CARE in these remote communities. Consequently, without access to spay/neuter services, unwanted dog pregnancies lead to homeless puppies and stray dogs. As a result, in pretty much every remote community, "round-up days" happen when all the stray and unwanted dogs are rounded up and killed. This is inhumane for the dogs, and traumatic for children who often witness their favorite stray dog getting killed.

Various non--profit organizations such as ARVO, and several others, work pretty much around the clock to help dogs and cats, and their owners, in these remote communities. ARVO travels to bush Alaska communities and provides clinics with a focus on spay/neuter surgeries, Rabies and Parvo vaccinations, etc. Rescue organizations bring in dogs and cats for veterinary care and rehoming. All of these volunteer-based rescue organizations are usually at 100% capacity, year-round.

We need help.

House bill 258 presents a critical opportunity to improve public health and safety, reduce animal suffering, and support rural communities that currently lack the capacity to manage these challenges independently. I respectfully encourage your support of this legislation. Your support of House Bill 258 would have a meaningful and lasting impact on the health and safety of both people and animals throughout Alaska.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christine Witzmann

5250 Riverton Avenue,
Anchorage, AK 99516
907 444 7719

From: [Jessica Wright](#)
Subject: House Bill 258

Representative,

I am writing in hopes that you will throw your support behind critically needed House Bill 258.

I volunteer and foster dogs for 2 rescues in Anchorage. Since 2024, I have fostered 12 dogs, but I know some fosters who, alone, have fostered over 100 dogs in that amount of time.. These dogs are primarily from villages, and very few of them are spayed/neutered. One 2yo female had already given birth to 3 litters of puppies by the time she was surrendered to rescue. I watch dozens of dogs go to new homes every week, and yet the just keep coming. Fosters are overwhelmed, rescues are not able to keep up, and these dogs do not deserve to be victims to circumstances outside of their control.

There is strong support for House Bill 258 throughout Alaskan communities. In the Bering Straits (Norton Sound) Region, communities struggle without regular animal care/control enforcement and access to health care.

The unmanaged litters propagate public health and safety hazards, and manageable situations quickly escalate out of control. People and pets are injured or killed from accidents caused by loose/stray animals. With no one regulating animal care/control laws, the unmanaged litters propagate the spread of infectious diseases (parvo, distemper, rabies) and increase the number of neglected and abandoned dogs/puppies. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life services in these rural municipalities.

Alaska needs this House Bill, and it is my sincere hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans.

Thank you sincerely for your time in reading my message.

Jessica Wright

Alaska Rural Veterinary Outreach
1120 Huffman Road
Anchorage, AK 99515
www.akrvo.org
<https://www.facebook.com/AKRVO>



January 29, 2026

Representative Robyn Niayuq Frier, Co-Chair
Representative Maxine Dibert, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
120 4th St., Room 3
Juneau, AK 99801

Representatives Frier and Dibert,

As a non-profit whose mission is to provide free or low-cost veterinary care, particularly spay and neuter services, to remote Alaska communities, we are expressing our support for House Bill 258. Remote Alaskan communities face ongoing challenges without regular animal care/control enforcement or access to veterinary care. Our organization, for example, has been providing care for over 500 animals annually in recent years, including 172 spay/neuter surgeries in 2025 alone. As a small volunteer based non-profit organization operating mostly on donations and grants, we are only able to reach a small portion of the communities in need and infrequently; more resources are needed to have a greater impact statewide and reduce overpopulation.

These remote communities are all in very serious need of assistance to manage and reduce the overpopulation of unwanted dogs in a humane manner, through reducing the number of unwanted litters rather than destroying unwanted/stray dogs. Stray dogs create hazards to other pets and people. Parvovirus outbreaks are common, and the risk of exposure to Rabies is high. The rate of dog bites to Alaska Native children is double that seen in the general U.S. population, (see <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23332462>). Unwanted/stray cats also suffer from disease, predation, exposure to the elements, etc. Various rescue nonprofit organizations rescue and rehome village dogs to more urban areas; however, they often are simply overwhelmed with intakes, and do not have the capacity to provide a long-term solution to the root problem. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support veterinary services in these remote communities.

There is strong community support for increased veterinary services, and we implore you to advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans. We also recommend considering the most efficient ways to distribute any

Alaska Rural Veterinary Outreach
1120 Huffman Road
Anchorage, AK 99515
www.akrvo.org
<https://www.facebook.com/AKRVO>



funds that are made available through passage of this bill, minimizing the administration burden on communities, pet owners, and the individuals and organizations providing the veterinary services.

Thank you for considering our input.

Respectfully,

/s/ Susan Oehlers

Susan Oehlers

Treasurer

[Redacted signature block]

Representative Robyn Niayuq Frier, Co-Chair

Representative Maxine Dibert, Co-Chair

House Resources Committee

120 4th Street, Room 3 Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Co-Chairs, Frier and Dibert,

I am writing to formally express my strong support for House Bill 258 and to respectfully urge your advocacy for its passage. I serve as the Liaison for ARVO and am also a resident of Kotzebue, Alaska. In both capacities, I work closely with communities across the Northwest Arctic and witness firsthand the public health and safety challenges created by the lack of consistent veterinary services and animal control infrastructure.

In Kotzebue and surrounding rural communities, there is little to no regular access to veterinary care, spay and neuter services, or animal control enforcement. As a result, dog overpopulation is widespread and persistent. This contributes to frequent parvovirus outbreaks, increased risk of rabies exposure, and unsafe interactions between free-roaming dogs, residents, and children. These issues are not isolated or theoretical; they affect daily life and community safety throughout the region.

Nonprofit organizations providing low-cost or volunteer veterinary services are working diligently to address these concerns. In recent years, these organizations have provided care to hundreds of animals annually, including a significant number of spay and neuter surgeries. However, as small, volunteer-based organizations that rely primarily on donations and grant funding, their reach is limited. Many communities in the Northwest Arctic remain underserved, and visits are often infrequent due to resource constraints.

While rescue and rehoming efforts are important, they cannot serve as a sustainable long-term solution. Rescue organizations are consistently overwhelmed, and without preventative veterinary care, the cycle of unwanted litter, stray animals, and associated public safety risks continues. Expanding access to humane population control through veterinary services is the most effective and responsible way to address the root of this issue.

House Bill 258 presents a critical opportunity to improve public health and safety, reduce animal suffering, and support rural communities that currently lack the capacity to manage these challenges independently. I respectfully encourage your support of this legislation

and recommend that any funds made available through its passage be implemented in a manner that minimizes administrative burden on rural communities, pet owners, and the organizations providing veterinary services.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering the needs of Northwest Arctic communities. Your support of House Bill 258 would have a meaningful and lasting impact on the health and safety of both people and animals across Alaska.

Sincerely,

Aubrey Cook

Liaison for ARVO

Kotzebue, Alaska

Susan Oehlers
[REDACTED]
Yakutat, AK 99689

January 29, 2026

Representative Robyn Niayuq Frier, Co-Chair
Representative Maxine Dibert, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
120 4th St., Room 3
Juneau, AK 99801

Representatives Frier and Dibert,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 258. As a long-time resident of the community of Yakutat, and a volunteer board member for the non-profit organization Alaska Rural Veterinary Outreach (ARVO) that provides low to no-cost veterinary services to remote communities, I can personally attest to the need for expanded veterinary care in remote Alaska communities. Remote Alaskan communities face ongoing challenges without regular animal care/control enforcement or access to veterinary care.

These remote communities are all in very serious need of assistance to manage and reduce the overpopulation of unwanted dogs in a humane manner, through reducing the number of unwanted litters rather than destroying unwanted/stray dogs. Stray dogs create hazards to other pets and people. Parvovirus outbreaks are common, and the risk of exposure to Rabies is high. Unwanted/stray cats also suffer from disease, predation, exposure to the elements, etc. Various rescue nonprofit organizations rescue and rehome village dogs to more urban areas; however, they often are simply overwhelmed with intakes, and do not have the capacity to provide a long-term solution to the root problem. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support veterinary services in these remote communities.

I can attest to the impact that ARVO has had in improving the lives of Yakutat's pets and their people through annual clinics; however, the reach of non-profits and even businesses is limited and there are so many communities in need. Additional funding resources is crucial to creating a meaningful impact throughout the state.

There is strong community support for increased veterinary services, and I implore you to advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans.

Thank you for considering my input.

/s/ Susan Oehlers

Susan Oehlers

[REDACTED]

From: [Amber Nickerson](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Support for HB 258
Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 7:06:37 AM

I'm writing in support of HB 258, which would create a statewide spay/neuter assistance program. In much of Alaska, especially rural communities, reliable veterinary care and animal control infrastructure are limited or nonexistent.

At the same time, the cost of spay/neuter is out of reach for many families, and the logistics of getting an animal to a clinic can be a barrier all on its own.

The result is predictable and preventable.

Unmanaged litters, loose and stray animals, overwhelmed rescues, and rising public health and safety concerns.

Nonprofits, volunteer networks, and individual foster homes are already doing crisis-level work, often taking animals in at the breaking point, because there simply isn't enough access to affordable spay/neuter services.

HB 258 is a practical, humane step that would reduce suffering, protect people and pets, and give communities the support they need to get ahead of the problem instead of constantly reacting to it.

Sincerely,
Amber Nickerson
Dog owner and animal lover

From: [Markus Raemy](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Spay/Neuter dogs
Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 5:16:11 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

There is strong support for House Bill 258 throughout Alaskan communities. In the Bering Straits (Norton Sound) Region, communities struggle without regular animal care/control enforcement and access to health care.

The unmanaged litters propagate public health and safety hazards, and manageable situations quickly escalate out of control. People and pets are injured or killed from accidents caused by loose/stray animals. With no one regulating animal care/control laws, the unmanaged litters propagate the spread of infectious diseases (parvo, distemper, rabies) and increase the number of neglected and abandoned dogs/puppies. It's a cycle of suffering for at-risk animals and people, constantly overwhelming non-profit resources because there's no infrastructure to support quality of life services in these rural municipalities.

Alaska needs this House Bill, and it is my sincere hope that you advocate for House Bill 258 to the best of your ability on behalf of public health and safety of all Alaskans.

Kind regards,
Wendy Alward