DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

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In favor of Bill H-7435

April 8, 2024

House Corporations Committee Rhode Island State House 82 Smith Street Providence, RI 02903

Dear Committee members:

On behalf of our members, supporters, and board members, I am respectfully requesting your support for House Bill No. <u>7435</u> (Dept. Business Regulation) by Representatives Solomon, Casimiro, Casey, Lima, Costantino, Messier, and Kennedy (Enacts a chapter to regulate pet insurance.)

It is extremely important that Rhode Island pet owners have greater consistency in pet insurance rules, more protections, and clarification for insurers.

House Bill H-7435 will do that for pet owners.

At the present time, we have confused consumers that often struggle to navigate through the patchwork of pet insurance rules and protections. Common concerns include rising rates, claim denials, how pre-existing conditions are defined, and coverage exclusions. Understandable language on coverage limits, lifetime limits, waiting periods, and deductibles is needed.

Sincerely,

Dennis Tabella

Dennis Tabella Director