

To: California State Assembly

Re: **SB 250**, as amended and as Proposed to be Amended– **OPPOSE**

Dear Assemblymember:

I am asking you to vigorously oppose SB 250. Senator Florez has re-proposed legislation that was thoroughly vetted and found by the California Senate to be unsatisfactory, during the past two legislative sessions. SB 250 proposes using mandatory sterilization of pets as a punitive tool to punish pet owners for unrelated, and often minor, offenses. As demonstrated during the fight against AB 1634, Californians are overwhelmingly opposed to state intervention into medical matters related to their pets. Proposing such legislation cost Mr. Levine his political career and we hope it will also terminate the political career of Senator Florez. Pet owning voters will not stand quietly and have their rights trampled by the state.

Supporters of SB 250 point to Santa Cruz County as their “model.” Yet animal control costs have doubled since Santa Cruz County passed a very similar measure. Santa Cruz County per capita animal control costs are 74% higher than for California as a whole. If this “success” became state law through SB 250, the \$249 million that California governments pay each year for animal control would soar to \$433 million. Local governments would sue for a new mandated reimbursement with cost increases of this magnitude.

The California Department of Finance opposes SB 250 because it would increase costs to the California’s state and local governments. Their analysis determined that SB 250 would result in even larger costs for the existing mandated reimbursement resulting from the 1998 Hayden Act, which at more than \$20 million per year is already one of the largest reimbursements that the state must pay to local governments.

Mandatory sterilization has been proven to be a failed cure for perceived pet overpopulation. Wherever it has been enacted animal euthanasia has increased and animal control costs have skyrocketed. At this critical time in California’s history the last thing we need is another divisive piece of legislation that will cost the state’s taxpayers tens of millions of dollars.

Please Oppose SB 250 and vote “No” when it is presented to the Assembly.

Very truly yours,

Signed

Date

Print Name

Street Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone