



## **The American Federation of Aviculture Inc.**

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Thank you, Chair and members of the committee, for the opportunity to speak today.

My name is Abbitt Hoffman. Legislative Specialist with The American Federation of Aviculture, and I'm also a retired Army Sergeant. I'm here to respectfully oppose HB 7334.

While this bill may be well-intentioned, its real-world impact would be harmful to responsible businesses, ethical breeders, and veterans who rely on lawful animal enterprises for their livelihoods.

HB 7334 would effectively prohibit pet stores from working with licensed breeders and brokers, even when those breeders meet high standards of animal care, record-keeping, and transparency. This does not eliminate demand for parrots—it simply eliminates responsible supply. When legitimate businesses are pushed out, unregulated and underground markets take their place, where animal welfare oversight is nonexistent.

For small business owners, especially family-run pet stores, this bill is devastating. These businesses already operate on narrow margins. Many rely on long-standing partnerships with professional breeders to provide healthy, well-socialized birds and accurate consumer education. Cutting off that supply chain threatens closures, job losses, and reduced tax revenue—without solving any proven problem.

This bill also disproportionately affects veterans. Across the country, many veterans enter animal-related businesses after military service because they value structure, responsibility, and care-based work. For some, aviculture and pet retail are not just careers, but part of their recovery and reintegration into civilian life. Policies like HB 7334 take away lawful opportunities from veterans who followed the rules, invested their savings, and built compliant businesses.

Importantly, this bill does nothing to address irresponsible ownership, improper care, or abandonment. Education, enforcement of existing animal welfare laws, and collaboration with ethical breeders are far more effective tools than blanket bans.

In closing, HB 7334 punishes responsible actors, harms small businesses, and removes opportunities from veterans—all while failing to improve animal welfare. I urge the committee to oppose this bill and instead pursue solutions that protect animals without destroying ethical livelihoods.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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