

Lou Mansolillo

From: Rhode Island Parrot Rescue <riparrots@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 3:07 PM
To: House Corporations Committee
Subject: Urgent Support for H7334 – Protect Rhode Island’s Parrots

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Dear Chair and Members of the House Corporations Committee,

I am writing today in strong and urgent support of House Bill H7334, the bill that would prohibit the sale of parrots sourced from breeders or brokers in Rhode Island pet stores.

At the recent hearing, advocates Marj, Dorian, and Christa clearly articulated why this legislation is long overdue and how it will meaningfully improve conditions for parrots in captivity. Their testimony reflected what rescuers, veterinarians, and welfare professionals witness every day: parrots suffer when their complex emotional and social needs are reduced to retail transactions.

During the hearing, concerns were raised that this bill would hurt businesses or that shelters should simply do a better job educating owners. Respectfully, this framing misses the core issue.

This is not a bill about punishing small businesses. It is about addressing a systemic problem within the retail sale model itself. When the transaction is primarily financial, there is little meaningful screening, education, or follow-through. Most pet stores are not saying “no” to a buyer who wants a parrot. The heartbreaking consequences — behavioral trauma, feather destructive disorders, chronic stress, and eventual surrender — are borne by the birds and by the rescue community, **not the retailer.**

Rescue organizations already work tirelessly to educate, screen, and support adopters. Yet we continue to see birds surrendered that were originally purchased in retail settings without adequate preparation. Parrots can and do live decades. They are highly intelligent, emotionally complex animals. They are not impulse purchases.

H7334 is a thoughtful, humane step forward. It allows parrots to be placed through shelters and rescue organizations equipped to provide proper education and support, reducing the cycle of suffering and surrender that strains our animal welfare system.

I would also like to sincerely thank Representative Serpa for her compassionate and candid remarks during the hearing. Recognizing that rhetoric about “responsible pet ownership” does not always match real-world practice is an important and courageous acknowledgment.

The correspondence submitted to the committee demonstrates strong public support for this bill, along with backing from animal welfare organizations. Rhode Islanders care deeply about humane standards for animals in our state.

If we remain silent, commercial interests will dominate the conversation. I urge you to stand on the side of animal welfare, compassion, and responsible policy.

Please advance House Bill H7334.

Thank you for your service and your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

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Corrie Butler
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Executive Director, RIPR
[Rhode Island Parrot Rescue](#)
Saving lives, one bird at a TiMe 

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placement: <https://www.riparrots.org/home/sponsorship-opportunities>

Our Amazon Wishlist:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1TRRMJN9SISLS?ref_=wl_share