

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Laurella Desborough <laurella.desborough@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026 1:18 PM  
**To:** House Corporations Committee  
**Subject:** Please Oppose HR 7334

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TO: Members of the House Committee on Corporations February 11, 2026

Please do not pass this bill as it will provide no benefits to parrots or avian species. A ban on the sale of parrots can have far reaching negative consequences for parrots. The opportunity for parrot ownership has produced many positive results for both parrots and for humans. Following are some examples of positive contributions to parrots and birds which were made possible because people kept and bred parrots and other birds.

- 1) Bird breeders in the US have worked to develop the appropriate diets for many different avian species by doing the research on their diets in the wild, developing appropriate diets for the bird in domestic care and publishing articles providing that information to bird breeders and bird owners in the US and around the world.
- 2) Bird breeders and pet bird owners in the US have routinely contributed many thousands of dollars over many decades to conservation projects for avian species from hornbills in Africa to macaws in Central and South America. These contributions were made possible because persons who owned parrots cared and wanted to help them in their native lands. One small organization, Avian Research Fund, donated \$75,000 in just six years.
- 3) Bird breeders have assisted wildlife biologists by providing detailed information on appropriate hand feeding diets and processes for baby parrots and macaws when biologists needed the information after saving baby parrots in South American forests.
- 4) Bird breeder Joann Abramson in California performed research on her Buffons macaws for field biologists to see which tracking device could safely be used on wild Buffons macaws, devices which the macaws could not destroy and could safely wear. This saved the biologists years of testing on young macaws in the wild.
- 5) Bird breeders saved from extinction the Socorro Island dove, the Laysan teal (a duck), and the Nene goose by successfully managing and breeding the few remaining specimens. (These are only a few rare birds saved by bird breeders.)
- 6) The Puerto Rican parrots were facing extinction in the nineties. The last few individuals were kept by USFWS in a large aviary in Puerto Rico. They had no breeding success because the federal agents in charge of these parrots were not educated about their nesting needs. When federal agents in charge of these PR parrots finally accepted the recommendations of knowledgeable parrot breeders, successful breeding was accomplished and the population of Puerto Rican parrots has now well recovered.

7) Parrots have been kept as pets by humans since the earliest days of man. Evidence of Native Americans keeping and breeding large macaws was discovered in caves in North America.

8) US veterans with serious PTSD and other issues resulting from their war time military experiences are greatly benefited by having a companion parrot or macaw. For many years there was a special aviary with parrots which was attached to a facility housing veterans with disabilities located in Santa Monica, California.

9) Parents with an autistic child report improved social behaviors, more talking and interacting on the part of their autistic child when they have a pet parrot.

10) Elderly individuals living alone report a happier life when they have a pet parrot as a companion.

As well as benefiting pet bird owners and conservation of parrots in the wild, the keeping and breeding of parrots in the US contributes to the economy thru companies producing cages, equipment, toys, wire, and of course, grains, seeds, produce, and the many small businesses associated with the care and keeping of birds.

While the animal rights focus on accusing people who raise and sell parrots or other birds of operating a "bird mill" or of "being abusive" the facts present a very different situation. With perhaps the exception of budgerigars, most parrot species are NOT simple to keep and breed like poultry. The needs of each species are often quite different and their care and successful breeding takes knowledge, observation skills, patience and providing the unique environmental and dietary requirements each species requires. Parrots cannot be managed like poultry, but must be managed according to their unique species needs. When individuals care for parrots, they often contribute to the general fund of important knowledge about a specific parrot species thru published journal articles.

Therefore, if there are problems in pet stores, the solution is not a ban on bird sales but rather a) a requirement that the pet store owner take and pass a specific certification course on the proper care of parrots in their store, or b) have a basic annual inspection by qualified individuals regarding appropriate and necessary management protocols for parrots in the store environment. (Perhaps a local avian veterinarian would qualify for the role of store inspector.)

What does banning the sale of parrots in stores or public places accomplish?

1) It prevents the members of the public from being able to easily find a pet parrot when they are looking for one.

2) In the case of veterans, the elderly and parents with autistic children, a sales ban becomes a barrier to their ability to locate and visit the birds in pet stores or public places to see what might be best for their needs.

3) It reduces public awareness of the conservation needs of parrots in the wild and thus reduces the amount of donations in public support of conservation projects.

Therefore, it seems that there are many good reasons NOT to ban the sales of parrots in pet stores or in public places. The animal rights agenda is No Pets for People. But that is not the kind of freedom our US Constitution provides to our citizens who may want a pet parrot.

I am writing to oppose this sales ban as a person who has spent over forty years working full time to benefit parrots, to provide accurate information on parrot care, to learn more about parrots by keeping and breeding them, to writing articles about parrots to inform bird owners, to assist bird curators at zoos and biologists working with parrots in the wild. When people have actual experience with parrots, they care about their lives and conservation.

Sincerely,

Laurella Desborough

Avian Research and Conservation Institute

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