

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Rita Rooney <reerooney41@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 25, 2026 3:51 PM  
**To:** House Corporations Committee  
**Subject:** Urging Support for H.7334

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Dear Legislator,

I am writing to urge you to support the measure to ban the sale of parrots in pet stores in Rhode Island. For the past 10 years, I have had the privilege of volunteering with Foster Parrots, a well-known and respected animal welfare organization located in Rhode Island.

Through my volunteer work, I have witnessed the crisis many parrots face and the difficult lives they endure before finding sanctuary. Many of these birds call FosterParrots their permanent residence because of the trauma they suffered: the organization simply will not risk having them be rehomed once again.

There was one parrot I will never forget. She was a Goffin Cockatoo who was pacing in her cage. When I approached and talked with her, she began to calm down. However, as a human, I could not stay long enough to offer the kind of companionship, consoling and attachment she needed. As I began to walk away and said the dreaded word "goodbye," she screamed, paced, and could not be calmed down again. Parrots are extremely emotionally intelligent and need to bond. It was soul crushing to witness.

So many of them have been in multiple homes, living in cages alone for days on end: they pluck, mutilate themselves and require intense emotional support and expensive care. There are so many adoptable birds from sanctuaries/rescues. These sanctuaries and rescues know what these wild birds need and know how to help new guardians.

Here is another difficult story. A man who is alcoholic goes to a bird store and buys two parakeets for his cat's entertainment. They were released outdoors not knowing how to feed or shelter themselves. The circumstances might be slightly different but this is likely not an isolated incident.

Parrots deserve better. It is heart wrenching to bear witness to their suffering. Please, I urge the committee to pass this ban of parrot sales in pet stores.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rita Rooney