

**Roberta DiMezza**

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**From:** Volunteer Services for Animals <vsaheadquarters@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 9, 2025 1:54 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Cc:** Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph; Rep. O'Brien, William W.; Sen. Murray, Melissa A.  
**Subject:** H5668 - SUPPORT - Hearing 6/12/25

Dear Chairman Craven and Honorable Members of the Rhode Island House Judiciary Committee:

Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA) writes to you in the hope that you will consider Representative O'Brien's H5668 and Senator Murray's S180 Sub A that will prohibit declawing felines.

We will skip reiterating the horrors of this procedure and its life lasting effects on the surviving cats that have had this operation except to tell you what was directly told to me several years ago by a person who had their young cat declawed. After the procedure the cat no longer used the kitty litter pan and the owner had the cat euthanized!

I have never included this in previous testimonies that VSA has sent in over the years about this painful cruelty inflicted on unlucky cats.

Please consider the reasonableness of our request and pass this humane legislation.

Thank you for permitting VSA to submit its testimony via email.

Very respectfully yours,  
Joanne J. Rongo  
Chair of the Board of Directors

**Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA) founded 1979**

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**[www.VolunteerServicesforAnimals.org](http://www.VolunteerServicesforAnimals.org)**

**Please adopt from a shelter or a humane organization.  
Spay/neuter is the humane response to overpopulation.  
Factory farmed animals are among the most abused animals on Earth.  
Thank you for helping VSA save lives and change minds.**