

Roberta DiMezza

From: lorelei hickman <lovecattt@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 10, 2025 1:17 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: Rep. O'Brien, William W.; Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph
Subject: House Bill 5668-SUPPORT

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To the honorable members of the Rhode Island legislature:

I am a former veterinary surgical nurse in New Orleans, LA. I was fired from my job in 2010 for attempting to educate pet caregivers about the harmful effects of declawing cats and the more humane alternatives which exist. My employer, like too many other veterinarians, knew that when people fully understand what declawing entails and all of the considerable risks to their animal, they usually opt not to have it done. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 5668, which will prohibit declawing of companion animals in Rhode Island.

Declawing is rightfully viewed as animal cruelty in the vast majority of the world, with the United States being the ONLY First World nation that still permits it, outside of Ontario, Canada. No human health organization advises or recommends declawing for any reason relating to "protecting human health", and declawing cats does not keep them in homes or out of shelters. Simply put, declawing has no place in modern, compassionate veterinary medicine.

Please vote your support for HB 5668 and help Rhode Island lead the way for the US to become a more enlightened and humane nation. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Lorelei K. Hickman
Author, YOUR OTHER FAMILY DOCTOR: A VETERINARY MEDICAL MEMOIR
Admin, American Veterinary Workers Against Declawing