

Testimony in support of H 5704 -- Pesticide Control

Hearing Date: March 11, 2025

Dear Chairman Casey and Honorable State Representatives of the House Municipal Government and Housing Committee:

Volunteer Services for Animals (VSA) asks for your support and passage of H 5704 because it will help prevent the poisoning of birds and wildlife in our State. This is a long needed remedy to mitigate the deaths of hawks, other birds and wildlife from poison products on the market and in use.

We would also like you to insure that this legislation will employ the use of rat birth control. The use of rat birth control pellets will reduce the rodent problem and help save the lives of our companion animals who directly or indirectly may ingest poison. Effectively dealing with the statewide rodent problem is necessary but especially so in Rhode Island's big cities where the rodent problem is greater and where maintained rat birth control would be very effective. It is very scary to see big rat holes and leavings where you live and too often see rodents in the daytime as well. Citizens don't quite know how to best handle the unsettling rat problem and many municipalities leave it unaddressed or to the homeowner to solve. Not knowing what to do the homeowner buys the poisons, and the beat goes on. We hope that you will pass this measure and bring it to the full House for discussion and vote because in the long run this legislation not only benefits non-human life but human life as well.

We thank the sponsors of H 5704 and the House Municipal Government Housing Committee for accepting our testimony via email.

Very respectfully yours,

Joanne J. Rongo

Chair of the VSA Board of Directors