

SB 662 places governmental agencies in charge of animal welfare groups in reference to the training and advocacy work they perform with law enforcement agencies. The government should not be regulating free speech and the advocacy work of animal welfare organizations. Many different advocacy groups conduct training for law enforcement to bring attention to specific concerns, such as performed by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and those advocating for better enforcement of laws to protect against domestic abuse, and the opioid crisis, to name a few. Yet SB 662 does not address those training programs. The purpose of this legislation is not to ensure the adequacy of training materials but rather, this is the first step towards government oversight and control of animal welfare advocates. Why else would the Department of Agriculture, which has such an abysmal record of enforcement of animal laws, be placed in charge of animal advocates, were it not to impede the work of animal advocates? This bill allows for state agencies to monitor and censor the advocacy work of animal welfare groups.

This is GOVERNMENT OVERREACH at its worst.

- ✓ Allows Department of Agriculture and Department of Public Safety to **monitor and censor animal welfare advocates.**
- ✓ **Criminalizes Free Speech** if the government disagrees with those advocating for animal welfare.
- ✓ No other advocacy group is monitored by a governmental agency on its advocacy work with law enforcement – **only animal welfare organizations are discriminated against in this bill.**
- ✓ Every animal welfare organization that conducts training for law enforcement agencies in the state has voluntarily provided their training materials to the sponsor's office in an effort to provide **Full Transparency – no problems were reported so why the need for this legislation?**
- ✓ All animal welfare training programs already have oversight or third party certification and/or conducted by experienced law enforcement officials.
- ✓ This legislation is a slap in the face to animal welfare professionals and every citizen of the state who cares about animals.
- ✓ This is the first step towards **government control of animal advocates.**
- ✓ The Department of Agriculture is currently ignoring state laws protecting animals and is refusing to refer animal abusers to the Attorney General's Office for legal action. (For info [click here](#).) **If this bill passes, you can be assured that the Department of Agriculture will attempt to silence animal advocates who criticize the Department for its lax enforcement efforts.**
- ✓ This bill was introduced to address a problem that does not exist and was motivated by a fabricated story intended to discredit the training of Boone County Animal Control Officers. (For info [click here](#).)
- ✓ Department of Public Safety admits, "No one at DPS would be considered an expert in investigating animal abuse cases" and therefore DPS would not be qualified to monitor and censor animal advocates.
- ✓ Problems with enforcement of animal laws is the **lack of training – not poor training.** More training should be encouraged instead of setting up unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles with criminal penalties. **Criminalization of training will only serve to decrease training efforts.**