



Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association

April 29, 2016

The Honorable Joseph Kennedy
United States House of Representatives
United States Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-2101

RE: H.R. 3174 – Fairness to Pet Owners Act

Dear Representative Kennedy,

The Fairness to Pet Owners Act would place onerous regulatory burdens on veterinarians when there is no indication that this legislation is necessary.

- The MVMA supports a client's right to fill their pet's prescription at a pharmacy of their choice.
- The MVMA has a longstanding policy that encourages veterinarians to write a prescription in lieu of dispensing when requested by the client.
- Massachusetts veterinarians already, upon the request of the client, are required by law to provide prescription information to a pharmacy of choice.
- There are instances when a particular pet medication is only available through a veterinarian.
- Requiring veterinary practices to handle and process many new but unnecessary written prescriptions to comply with this law will divert time and resources from providing needed care to their animal patients.
- It is also certainly possible that this proposed increased administrative burden on practices will be passed on in terms of higher costs to consumers.
- Such federal mandate encroaches on state jurisdiction.
- Is it truly in the patient's best interest to drive clients to large pharmacies (retail chain and online) where there is rarely a pharmacist available who is trained in animal pharmacology?

Please oppose H.R. 3174.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan A. Curtis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Executive Director