



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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[humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)

January 21, 2020

RE: Informational Testimony HB 81 - Sodomy and Unnatural or Perverted  
Sexual Practice - Repeal

Chairman Clippinger, Vice Chair Atterbeary and Members of the House Judiciary  
Committee:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States, I wanted to provide the committee with brief informational testimony. We do not take a position on HB 81 because we consider the passage of comprehensive animal sexual abuse prohibitions in the felony animal cruelty statute in 2019 to make the component of the perverted practice prohibition related to sexually abusing animals redundant. I thank this committee again for their leadership in the passage of that important legislation to define animal sexual abuse and prohibit it in all its forms.

I hope this information is helpful as you consider HB 81.

Sincerely,

Emily Hovermale  
Maryland State Director  
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