

# AR GROUPS LOBBYING TO RESTRICT DOG BREEDERS - CONTACT CONGRESS NOW!

Animal rights/ "protection" groups are actively lobbying Congress to restrict and limit the activities of dog breeders. They are making unsupported claims that there are "tens of thousands of puppy mills" in the United States, and asking members of Congress to advance arbitrary, one-size-fits-all mandates that could require small hobby breeders to place their dogs in industrial, commercial-style kennels and undermine quality breed-based care. Though labeled as commercial breeding regulations, the one-size-fits-all requirements also apply to some small hobby breeders.

## YOUR ACTION IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO STOP THE ANIMAL-RIGHTS SUPPORTED PUPPY PROTECTION ACT (H.R. 1624) AND GOLDIES ACT (H.R. 1788).

Below you will find talking points and more information on how to contact your lawmakers.

### **The Puppy Protection Act (H.R. 1624) Establishes Government Mandates That:** Prohibit the breeding of a female dog:

- Unless pre-screened by a veterinarian. No specific details are provided on what the screening would involve or who would make these decisions.
- Based arbitrarily on the age and size of the dog.
- If it would produce more than two litters in an 18-month period.

### Additional arbitrary requirements include but are not limited to:

- Mandates "unfettered access" from dogs' primary enclosures to an outdoor exercise area large enough that it "allows dogs to extend to full stride". This would create a potentially dangerous environment for multiple dogs that do not get along, accidental breedings, other poor animal management practices, etc.
- Mandated annual dental exams.
- Mandated indoor space sufficient to allow the tallest dog in an enclosure to stand on his or her hindlegs without touching the roof of the enclosure. For family dogs that live in their owner's homes, a primary enclosure may be considered the dog's sleeping crate.
- Prohibition on the keeping of dogs in enclosures above 85 degrees or below 45 degrees F, regardless of breed or acclimation needs for dogs that hunt, sled, detect explosives, or do other work and thrive in cooler temperatures, or that must be acclimated to cooler or warmer temperatures for their safety.
- Completely solid flooring, despite scientific recognition that multiple types of high-quality flooring, including engineered slatted flooring, is beneficial in certain types of kennels and with certain breeds.

### **Why This is a Problem:**

While some portions of the measures include reasonable generalized guidelines for canine care, arbitrary requirements that ignore best practices for individual outcomes are not appropriate for federal mandates. One-size-fits-all requirements do not take into account the broad range of breeds and types of dogs, or best health and breeding practices. They also do not allow for creative approaches that permit expert breeders and owners to provide optimal care for their individual dogs and advance the art and science of responsible dog breeding. Arbitrary restrictions can be expensive and undermine small hobby breeding programs because of an overly-broad definition of "breeding female" that impacts who is subject to federal requirements.

To learn more, see and share:

[Proposal Would Undermine Animal Welfare](#), DC Journal, April 20, 2023

[Breeder Expertise, Thoughtful Analysis Demonstrate Dangerous Flaws in 'Feel Good' Dog Law](#).

