
March 25, 2019

The Honorable Scott Wilk
State Capitol, Room 3063
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 202 (Wilk): Agricultural Industry – Support

Dear Senator Wilk:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 202, and I thank you for introducing this important legislation.

Animal blood banks help provide veterinarians with blood products needed for life-saving transfusions for dogs, cats, and many other animals. Current state law limits the supply of these lifesaving products by preventing blood collection from community-based banks. Community-based blood banks have proven to be a safe, effective, and efficient way to collect donor blood, while also allowing for the donor animals to live a more humane life as the pet of a human companion compared to their counterparts living in captive closed-colony blood banks. SB 202 will simply allow for these community-based blood banks to operate, while leaving the current captive closed-colony blood bank model largely unaffected.

Where SB 202 would affect both current commercial blood banks and community-based banks if passed, is to clarify that a licensed veterinarian must directly oversee blood collection activities rather than simply someone “qualified in the field.” Veterinarians are trained not only in techniques for humane handling and venipuncture in animals, but also in the identification, control, and prevention of canine and feline blood borne diseases. SB 202 ensures that these operations will be conducted in the most responsible manner possible for both the animals and the blood product. Lastly, the bill will allow for public records requests of information filed with the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

SB 202 will open up California animal blood banking to the community-based model and by doing so will allow animals to live a more humane live with their human companions, while also allowing veterinarians to expand their business practice. Social Compassion in Legislation is grateful to Senator Wilk for authoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,