Dear [Candidate];

I am writing today to find out your stance on Ontario’s Breed Specific Legislation (BSL), commonly referred to across the province as the “pit bull” ban.

As a quick background to the status of this law, BSL was put in place by the Ontario Liberal Government on August 29, 2005. For over 12 years puppies and family dogs have been seized and killed by the hundreds, if not thousands, based not on their behavior, but their appearance. Parents have to explain what caused the sudden “disappearance” of beloved family pets to inconsolable children. This has been further escalated by the Ontario Liberal government’s continued refusal to seek experts in animal behavior, and their unwillingness to accept scientific based evidence.

Since 2005, there has been no reduction in dog bites in Ontario. This alone is proof that BSL has failed to enhance public safety while instead has instantly criminalized responsible owners. Under the provisions of the current law, dog bites/attacks **not** perceived to have been caused by a “pit bull” are all but ignored by media. Yet a dog involved in a similar incident and which has been profiled as a “pit bull” (i.e. blocky head, short fur, muscular build, etc.) garners international attention. In many cases false identification of the actual breed is initially made but seldom recanted. This results in further damaging the reputation of the targeted dogs. Both dogs and responsible owners continue to suffer due to the promotion of false public security by the liberal government.

Hundreds of cities and municipalities across Canada and the United States are repealing BSL as it has been consistently proven to be ineffective at protecting the public. Ontario should be looking to City of Calgary, the most successful model for animal laws in North America, for guidance on effective animal control. Calgary has a 98% dog registration rate, has a 70% reduction in dog bites over the last 10 years, all with zero cost to city tax payers. Calgary maintains the cost of animal control with their high registration rates, their rewards to responsible dog owners in the city and by promoting their breed neutral stance through educational dog safety programs in schools. Calgary does not ban any specific breeds or types of dog. This is now becoming the global trend.

With the plethora of evidence proving BSL ineffective, unjust, and a massive burden to tax payers, city law enforcement and court systems, will you stand with us in removing breed specific language in the Ontario Dog Owners Liability Act? I believe that responsible dog owners deserve equal treatment under the law, regardless of the breed of dog in their families, therefore would like to see strong and harsh penalties for irresponsible dog owners become more regularly enforced. I truly believe that this is the only way to ensure public safety for citizens, as well as their dogs.

I implore YOU to do the RIGHT thing and request you advise me if it is your intention to support the repeal of BSL in Ontario. In this upcoming election, I will NOT support any candidate who will continue to include legislated animal cruelty as part of our laws in Ontario.

Sincerely,

[Your name and address here]

References:

City of Calgary Animal Services

<http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/ABS/Pages/Animal-Services/Animal-Services.aspx>

PSA comparing Ontario to Calgary

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAUo_ryYxQo>

Dogs against BSL

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkpRu_n7D4I>

World Wide Failure of BSL

<http://www.nationalcanineresearchcouncil.com/uploaded_files/tinymce/World-wide%20Failure%20of%20BSL.pdf>

 BullSh!t: A Documentary

<https://www.facebook.com/BullShitDoc/videos/1125539324251123/>