

Don't Let Minnesota Become California

Members of the House Commerce Finance & Policy Committee:

As the advocacy voice of the responsible pet care community, the Pet Advocacy Network represents the interests and expertise of retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, pet owners, and others involved in the many aspects of pet care across the United States. Our association promotes animal well-being and responsible pet ownership, fosters environmental stewardship, and ensures the availability of healthy pets through our local, state, and federal work. Additionally, we routinely advocate for legislative and regulatory proposals that enhance the health, safety, and welfare of companion animals.

On behalf of the responsible pet care community, we urge you to vote NO on HF 2627. This bill would ban the retail sale of dogs and cats in Minnesota pet stores—copying a policy enacted in California that has had **devastating consequences**. A comprehensive [Los Angeles Times](#) investigation, combined with independent reporting and consumer data, makes it clear: **California's ban failed**. Minnesota should learn from California's mistakes—not repeat them.

What Went Wrong in California?

- **Puppy scams increased 350%**

The Better Business Bureau reported a 350% increase in puppy scams in the 2.5 years following the ban. With pet stores gone, buyers turned to unregulated online sellers and were often defrauded or sold sick animals with no recourse.

- **Pet sales moved into the shadows**

Instead of stopping bad actors, California's ban fueled a black market. Puppies are now sold in parking lots and online by unregulated sellers using fake names and fake addresses. Traceability is gone. Transparency is gone. Oversight is gone.

- **Families lost a trusted source for healthy pets**

Consumers no longer have access to pet stores that provided education, health guarantees, and support. In their place are unregulated sellers with no accountability—leaving families at risk both emotionally and financially.

Minnesota should not follow this path.

HF 2627 will not protect animals or consumers. It will eliminate oversight, remove regulated options, and leave Minnesota families vulnerable.

Vote NO on HF 2627.