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[www.AsavetCharities.org](http://www.AsavetCharities.org)

February 14, 2025

The following statement is in response to Representative Kolodin's video and statements to eliminate specific state committees, including The Arizona Companion Animal Spay and Neuter Committee.

Statement from Maria Keegan

COO and Manager of Asavet Veterinary Charities-

*Asavet Veterinary Charities has worked for more than a decade to provide affordable spay/neuter to communities that often have no spay/neuter assisted programs available to them. Many of us in the organization have experience working in a shelter setting and understand the importance of altering companion animals and community cats to keep unwanted pets out of shelters and foster programs. We'd like to say that pet overpopulation might have improved in the last decade but the problem still persists and will only become exponentially worse if another source for spay/neuter assistance is eliminated. We work in collaboration with many organizations, most of which are rescue groups or shelters, that receive funding assistance through the Pet Plate Grant. This grant is overseen by the Arizona Companion Animal Spay and Neuter (AZCASN) Committee. Eliminating this committee and these funds will cause shelter intake numbers to be on the rise and will in turn lead to a nation wide increase in shelter euthanasia due to overcrowding and cost restraints. I please ask that Representative Kolodin educate himself on the AZCASN and perhaps learn how eliminating funding sources for spay/neuter assistance might impact the state as a whole.*

Statement from Dr. Karter Neal, DVM

CEO and Founder of Asavet Veterinary Charities

Owner and Operator of Santa Cruz Veterinary Clinic

Shelter Advisory Board Member for the Arizona Veterinary Medical Association-

*I would like to thank Arizona State Representative Alexander Kolodin for his eagerness in exposing government waste and fraud on the state and federal level. I am saddened to hear about him including the Arizona spay and neuter committee on this list on his video press release. This committee simply oversees license plate money gathered from citizens who donate voluntarily to the Arizona license plate program. The committee simply receives grant applications from non-profits and shelters around the state and redistributes grants for spay and neuter with mandatory reporting requirements on use of funds. My non-profit has been the beneficiary of these grants and I and my staff work very hard to reach target areas that need spay and neuter on our mobile unit for no profit whatsoever.*

*As a 52 year old registered Independent and active voter and Arizona native, I have watched the impact of pet overpopulation on our state and communities since the 1970s. I have dedicated my professional career of well over 20 years to spay and neuter access to low income citizens in rural, tribal, and economically challenged neighborhoods across this great state.*



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*I have seen first-hand since the inception of the Pet Friendly License Plate Program how this money, which is NO COST to the taxpayers, has performed thousands of spay and neuter surgeries all across the state. This directly helps animal control and police services, which are tax payer funded, by reducing pet overpopulation in their communities. Supporters of this program proudly display their pet friendly license plates just as so many other groups display theirs and voluntarily pay the fees and trust the state to pass these funds to their assigned purpose minus an administrative fee to AZDOT to cover state cost. I have always found the Spay and Neuter Committee to be fair and reasonable in the statewide allocations of these funds. Even when my non-profit doesn't make the cut, they always have a rational reason and explanation for use of funds and have had good transparency, unlike many other governmental committees I have dealt with over the years.*

*I applaud Rep. Kolodin for his eagerness to reduce the size of government, which as Americans we should all support wholeheartedly. I would suggest that our honorable Arizona legislators educate themselves and their staff to get to the root of government overspending and spending entitlement by the state. If by some chance, fraud or diversion of these spay and neuter funds has been found by our legislators, then this indeed needs to be reported immediately to the public and all stakeholders and appropriate action taken by the attorney general! Is this what Rep. Kolodin has found? I am not quite sure if he is inferring this in his video?*

*However, our little license plate program has no cost to taxpayers, no political agenda, (unless spay and neuter has become controversial), and has benefited community health as a whole by promoting access to spay and neuter.*

*I would be happy to help discuss this program, the benefits of animal welfare programs, sheltering, euthanasia and its history in our state with any Arizona legislator who would find my experience helpful.*