

Submitter: Savanna Scheiner
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2977

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Savanna Scheiner, and I'm a wildlife rehabilitator with Think Wild, a nonprofit wildlife hospital and conservation center dedicated to the care and protection of native wildlife. Each year, our small but passionate team treats over 1,000 patients, all native species that are injured, orphaned, or otherwise in need of help—most often due to human-related causes.

These animals include everything from hawks and owls to beavers, squirrels, songbirds, and bats. They come to us tangled in fishing line, hit by cars, attacked by pets, or displaced by habitat loss. We do everything we can to heal and return them to the wild where they play vital roles in maintaining ecological balance. But our capacity is limited—not by our dedication, but by our funding.

Currently, we rely solely on grants, private donations, and volunteers to keep our operations running. While community support is invaluable, it is not enough to meet the growing demand. Each year, we are asked to do more with less, and it's becoming increasingly difficult to keep up with the needs of our patients and the public.

Government funding would be transformative. It would allow us to:

Expand our medical facilities and equipment to treat more complex injuries.

Improve training and safety for staff and volunteers.

Increase our capacity to admit and care for more wildlife in need.

Offer more education and outreach programs that prevent harm to wildlife in the first place.

Supporting wildlife rehabilitation and conservation is not just about helping animals. It's about supporting healthy ecosystems, biodiversity, and public safety. Native wildlife provides countless ecosystem services—from pollination and pest control to seed dispersal and water purification. These benefits impact agriculture, public health, and climate resilience.

As someone on the front lines every day, I can tell you that the need is urgent, and

the impact of our work is real. But we cannot do it alone. Wildlife is a public resource, and its care should be a shared responsibility.

I strongly urge you to support this legislation and allocate government funding for wildlife conservation. It's not just a compassionate choice—it's a necessary one.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Savanna Scheiner
Lead Wildlife Rehabilitation Technician
Think Wild