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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Arif Virani

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June 19th, 2018

Minister Wilson-Raybould
Minister's Office
Department of Justice Headquarters
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H8
Canada

Dear Minister Wilson-Raybould,

I am writing you as the Member of Parliament for Parkdale-High Park to express my support for petition 421-02037 which states the following:

“We, the undersigned, residents of Canada, call upon the Minister of Justice to address the significant social issue of animal cruelty by immediately conducting a review of the animal cruelty provisions in the Criminal Code.”

Thank you for responding to this petition in Parliament and clearly indicating that “animal cruelty is an extremely important social issue”. I could not agree more, both personally, and on behalf of many of my constituents in Parkdale-High Park who are passionate advocates in the fight against animal cruelty.

I fully support your department's efforts to highlight this topic by conducting a national dialogue with stakeholders and parliamentarians, and I'm keen to have my constituents directly involved in this dialogue. By working together not only in our own communities but also across the country, we can move towards a comprehensive solution which not only respects the rights of animals, but also those of Indigenous Persons who have legitimate claim to the use of animals for traditional purposes. In addition, I look forward to seeing your department's review of related provisions of the *Criminal Code* on the definitions of bestiality and offences relating to animal fighting, and how they might be amended to further protect animals.

Thank you for taking the time to read my affirmation of support for petition 421-02037 and the work we are committed to doing on this file.

Sincerely,

Arif Virani
Member of Parliament for Parkdale-High Park