

A RESOLUTION encouraging an investigation by the United States Attorney General into the fundraising tactics of the Humane Society of the United States.

WHEREAS, a mission of the Office of the United States Attorney General is to protect consumers from fraudulent, unfair, or deceptive business practices; and

WHEREAS, promotional materials of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) are full of dogs and cats, giving the impression that this is the primary focus of HSUS; and

WHEREAS, HSUS runs no pet shelters and, according to the HSUS president, only 20 percent of the organization's budget goes to companion animal issues; and

WHEREAS, the CEO of HSUS has admitted that "I think there is some confusion among the general public, and I think there's occasional confusion with donors"; and

WHEREAS, the Attorneys General of several states have already issued warnings to consumers regarding solicitations and advertisements by the Humane Society of the United States due to the concern that HSUS fundraising activities give consumers the impression their donations are assisting state and local animal shelters when in fact the donations go toward unrelated efforts such as lobbying in other states and at the federal level; and

WHEREAS, one of HSUS' key contract direct-mail fundraisers was recently fined 25 million dollars over deceptive fundraising activities by the Attorney General of New York; and

WHEREAS, according to HSUS' tax returns, only one percent of the funding raised by HSUS is given to pet shelters; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that consumers are protected from false and deceptive charitable organizations is of paramount importance within the state of Kentucky and throughout the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of

Kentucky:

→Section 1. The Attorney General of the United States is encouraged to investigate the fundraising activities of the Humane Society of the United States and to end HSUS' fraudulent and misleading practices perpetrated on consumers.