

December 3, 2021– *via email transmission to Committee staff*

My name is Corey Cohen. I have been a practicing animal behavior consultant for the past 38 years, specializing in fear and anxiety in dogs.

The damaging effect of loud explosions from fireworks on the nervous system is well documented: it put dogs (and humans) in a constant state of sympathetic activation, which essentially shuts off the immune system, digestive systems and other restorative and growth systems in the body. This leads to poor health, adverse stress-related behaviors and shorter lives.

I have witnessed over the years hundreds of dogs who are terrorized by these noises - and live their lives in a state of emotional shutdown.

With the legalization of fireworks in Pennsylvania, this issue has increased exponentially. This is blatant animal cruelty and abuse, and must stop.

Will Pennsylvania be known for legalizing animal abuse just so it can get some tax revenue? To me, this is selling out the peace, security and compassion for a few dollars.

I am greatly disappointed in Pennsylvania in that it shows an obvious lack of compassion for its most vulnerable and citizens.

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