

Dear Representative:

I am a lover of parrots and support Legislative Rights for Parrot's work in promoting parrot welfare. We support birds and partner with others who are doing good for the sake of parrots. On July 26, 2023 Representative Anna Paulina Luna [R-FL-13] introduced House Rule 4922 "Lacey Act Amendments of 2023," a companion bill to Rubio's Senate Bill 1614.

H.R. 4922 has five cosponsors: Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12], Rep. Donalds, Byron [R-FL-19], Rep. Nehls, Troy E. [R-TX-22], Rep. Carl, Jerry L. [R-AL-1], Rep. Dunn, Neal P. [R-FL-2]. This bill proposes the same changes to the Lacey Act (16 USC 3371 – 3378) that Senator Rubio previously attempted to attach to the America Competes Act. H.R. 4922 protects only the rights of domesticated pets, defined as dogs and cats, and traditional farm animals.

This expansion of the Lacey Act states that birds will not be able to travel across state lines and could deny ownership all together. This would create a major impact on bird owners, rescues, sanctuaries, military veterans, businesses, and others. There are many ways the changes in H.R. 4922 could cause serious harm to birds:

1. Individuals and rescues won't be able to take in birds from outside their state, whether from a person in need of help or transfer from another rescue.
2. Owners' wills designating where the parrot(s) should go after death would be denied if the bird(s) would have to cross state lines to reach their new homes.
3. Military personnel will be highly impacted due to moving from base to base and likely required to relinquish their parrot. It is important to know that parrots have been used as emotional support animals for military personnel, so relinquishment could have serious emotional impacts.
4. A limited number of veterinarians are avian specialists; therefore, it is not uncommon for owners, rescues, and sanctuaries to travel across state lines to get appropriate care for a parrot. Moreover, certain emergency or

specialized surgeries are performed by only one or two avian veterinarians in the country.

5. In cases of natural disaster such as fire, flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, etc. in which individuals are told to evacuate their homes, they may have to cross state lines to reach safety and shelter. Since the Lacey Act allows no exception, these individuals will be required to leave their animal behind to die or face criminal charges for illegal transport.
6. It is common for rescues and sanctuaries to hold fundraisers to provide for birds in care or for medical procedural needs for the wellbeing of the parrot. Such events taking place at bird fairs, educational presentations, school functions, etc. may require the birds to cross state lines. These travel restrictions would thus greatly reduce opportunities for such fundraising.
7. Allowing this expansion of the Lacey Act could shut down an entire pet industry that revolves not only around parrots, but other exotic pets such as sugar gliders, hamsters, ferrets, turtles, and potbellied pigs.
8. The expansion of the Lacey Act could lead to unscientific, prejudicial placement of animals, including some parrots, on a ban list that restricts ownership. This type of banning already occurs elsewhere. Quaker (monk) parakeets have been banned or restricted in ownership based on a lie regarding the destruction of crops in Argentina, which has long ago been debunked.

We ask you to stand up for these endangered companion pets, owners, rescues, sanctuaries, and the parrot business community. Senator, I, along with Legislative Right for Parrots, implore you to vote nay on this bill.

Legislative Rights for Parrots is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization. We will not support any party or politician that harms parrots. Legislative Right for Parrots is registered in Nevada but works in numerous states, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Spain to support the welfare of both pet and wild parrots.

Thank you,