



**70th Annual Meeting
of the Midwestern Legislative Conference
of
The Council of State Governments**

July 12 – 15, 2015

**Resolution in Support of an Investigation into the Fundraising
Tactics of the Humane Society of the United States**

- WHEREAS,** a mission of the Office of U.S. Attorney General is to protect consumers from fraudulent, unfair or deceptive business practices; and
- WHEREAS,** Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt issued a warning to Oklahomans regarding solicitations and advertisements by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) due to the concern that HSUS fundraising activities give Oklahomans the impression their donations are assisting Oklahoma 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 over deceptive fundraising activities by the Attorney General of New York; and
- WHEREAS,** HSUS promotional materials are full of dogs and cats, giving the impression that this is the primary focus of HSUS; however, only 1 percent of the money raised by HSUS is given to pet shelters (according to its tax returns), and 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,** Charity Navigator, the nation's largest charity evaluator, revoked its rating of HSUS and replaced it with a "Donor Advisory" warning; and
- WHEREAS,** the CEO of HSUS admitted that "I think there is some confusion among the general public, and I think there's occasional confusion with donors"; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED,** that members of the Midwestern Legislative Conference encourage their respective Attorneys General to investigate the fundraising activities of the HSUS; and be it further
- RESOLVED,** that this resolution be submitted to appropriate state, federal and provincial officials.

Adopted this 15th day of July, 2015 at the 70th MLC Annual Meeting in Bismarck, North Dakota