



STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

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April 29, 2013

The Honorable Lois Wolk, Chair
Senate Governance and Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Wolk:

Senate Bill 688 (Galgiani) is set for the Senate Government and Finance Committee hearing on May 8, 2013. **Sponsored by the Board of Equalization (BOE) by unanimous vote**, this bill exempts all sales and purchases of drugs and medicines used, furnished or sold for the treatment of animals by a licensed veterinarian, local government animal shelter and nonprofit animal welfare or rescue organization.

Reduces Pet Care Costs. Pets for many individuals are regarded as family members. Pet owners care for them and to the extent they are able, provide every aspect of support for them. The expensive, yet necessary, medical costs to keep family pets alive and healthy can be challenging for many. SB 688 reduces pets' medical costs, which will improve pet health for millions of California pets.

Encourages Consumers to Buy from Licensed Veterinarians. Veterinarian-provided medications offer quality assurance and ensure the appropriate dosage and administration. The removal of the tax on these medication sales encourages California pet owners to buy from California licensed veterinarians, and has the additional benefit of stimulating economic activity.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this bill, please contact our Legislative Counsel, Michele Pielsticker, at (916) 322-2376.

Sincerely,


Cynthia Bridges
Executive Director

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