**Rep. Lofgren to co-sponsor H.R. 835, Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act, to extend further protection for puppies.**

*The Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act would amend the Animal Welfare act to provide further protection for puppies.*

**Washington, D.C.-**Rep. Zoe Lofgren, (D-CA), announced today that she is going to co-sponsor H.R. 835, The Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act (PUPS), a bill that would amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide further protection for thousands of puppies. This extension of protection would help puppies and consumers and regulate the current flawed puppy mill industry. This bill was originally introduced on February 28, 2011.

“If there is one thing Congress can agree on, it is that all living beings, human or animals, deserve access to sufficient food, water, shelter, and medical care,” said Congresswoman Lofgren, “This bill will protect both dogs and consumers by preventing inhumane treatments that can give dogs health complications which can be passed on to their owners.”

Originally sponsored by Rep. Gerlach (R-PA), PUPS would officially define a “High Volume Retail Breeder” as a person who, in commerce, compensation, or profit, ‘sells or offers for sale, via any means of conveyance (including the Internet, telephone, or newspaper), more than 50 of the offspring of such breeding female dogs for use as pets in any 1-year period.” By defining what a high volume breeder is, it is now possible to regulate breeder-owned puppy mills, which have a history of having horrendous living conditions. The bill will solve the problems of unsanitary, crowded, and dangerous cages by requiring breeders to give dogs sufficient food, exercise, moveable cage space, and access to veterinarian care.

Facilities that breed dogs for commercial resale are required to be licensed and inspected under the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA).By amending the Act, it closes the loopholes and regulations that breeders find to avoid providing puppies the most basic welfare amenities. Puppy breeders will no longer be able to use the internet to sell puppies from unregulated mills.

Rep. Lofgren urges her fellow colleagues in Congress to support this bi-partisan bill. The Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act was also introduced in the 111th Congress as H.R. 5434, which Rep. Lofgren also co-sponsored.