

Mr. Chairman and committee I appreciate you allowing me to address this committee. I am not use to speaking in front of such an important assemblage, so please pardon my nervousness. My name is Peggy Wampold and I reside in Tolland, CT.

First I want to preface my remarks, by telling you I am not a breeder, I have never bred a litter, nor do I intend to do so in the future. I cleaned enough puppy papers when I was a child to last me a lifetime and I exhausted all my maternal instincts raising three sons. I have had Irish Setters all of my life as did my father before me. I am the President of South Windsor Kennel Club a member club of the American Kennel Club and the Connecticut Dog Federation. I am also a member of the Irish Setter Club of Central Connecticut, the Irish Setter Club of New England, the Irish Setter Club of America and I am Vice President the New England Sporting Group Ass. I want to address Bill HBO 5798, SBNO 499, and HB 5493.

HBO 5798 What is considered unreasonable? What is considered confinement and tethering? I have a fenced yard in which my dogs are confined in, Is this considered unreasonable confinement? When I travel with my dogs, I travel with them in crates for their safety. Should I have an accident they will not be tossed around or worse be thrown out of the vehicle. When I am not home, I crate my young dogs for their safety when I cannot watch them. Many dogs have died from chewing on electric cords, eating poisonous substances etc, not to mention destroying a house. This could Bill (subject to interpretation) could put veterinarians out of business if they cannot confine sick animals in their hospitals, boarding kennels out of business if they can not confine their charges to name only two tax paying industries in the state. What do people do who live where they cannot have a fence? With all of the ice we have had this Winter people can not walk dogs, if they can not put them out on a line to take care of nature, what are they supposed to do? If this is to prevent people from tying out a dog all day, who is going to enforce this law? Are we going to turn into a state where neighbors tattle on neighbors, are we going to use the government to settle neighbor disputes? Clearly when our State is in such economic difficulty, our law makers should be more concerned with other issues instead of trying to write laws that will be difficult to enforce, accomplish very little and will be a greater burden on towns to enforce. Are local officials going to have to set outside someone's yard and time how long a dog is tied out? It is my understanding from Law and Order and CSI New York (I have never a read law book so my education is from the TV) that the police and dog officers cannot come into my house with out a search

warrant. How are they to determine if my dogs are confined, what are the conditions of their confinement and for how long they are confined? Animals need to be confined for their own safety in fenced yards, or runs, and if this is not an option, what are people to do. If they find they cannot keep their pet, then they are going to bring it to the local shelter and then it will be the responsibility of the town or state to take care of the animal. This is happening all over the country where such laws are being passed. Why would you consider a bill that will put an additional burden on the taxpayers? Think of the whole picture and not the single instance. Think of the ramifications of this bill and different interpretations that can be applied. It is open to a wide range of Interpretation.

SBNO 499 I agree that we should be responsible for damages caused by our animals, BUT what if I am walking down the street with my dog on a leash and under control and he is attacked by another dog not on a leash or under any control and he kills or hurts the other dog. My dog did not cause the fight, but he did hurt the other dog? OR, my dogs are out in their fenced yard and the neighbor's cat jumps the fence and comes into the yard and my dogs attack it. They are in their yard. I question how you are going to determine who is the owner of a loose dog, if it is not known or seen by the other dog's owner. What are damages to include? I love my animals and feel that they are part of my family. Are these damages going to include my pain and suffering, the losses of economic gain they may bring for what ever reason I can dream up etc.

We need to enforce the laws in existence and not create more. We have leash laws. Animals allowed to roam at will generally cause the problems. Irresponsible owners are not going to come forward and say my dog did this.

The nebulous language of these bills leave too much open to interpretation and potential abuse. Damages are subjective and usually decided by a court, or we going to create more court cases on an already over loaded court calendar?

HB5493 I would like clarification on the word existing. If it is genetic or hereditary it is in existence in the living organism from the time of conception but may not manifest itself until later in life. No one can guarantee any living organism from such problems. You cannot guarantee your own children do not have genetic or hereditary defects. All any breeder can do is test where there are tests on the parents. If your intent is at the time of sale then that should be specified, nor can

a breeder guarantee that an animal will not suffer an injury after the point of sale anymore than you can guarantee that your children will not injure themselves. I do concur that all breeders, sellers or adoption agencies of puppies should only offer healthy puppies at the time of sale or adoption and the new owners should take their new animal to a veterinarian for a health check, but once that has occurred how can any one guarantee what the future holds. I can tell you that if my husband and I had been dogs owned by a reputable breeder we would never have been bred. He had bad eyes and I had a bad bite. Consequently two of my three children had eye surgery and wear glasses and two had to have orthodontistry. I will say that all three grew into very upstanding tax paying citizens, despite their genetic defects and I am sure that their spouses and children appreciate their being.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak before this committee. I am very passionate about dogs and although some of the bills may seem insignificant in the overall picture of this state, they will have a profound effect on dog owners and people who love animals as I do and on the people who have to enforce them.

I support SBNO 262, SBNO 783, SBNO5801 and 5807.