



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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MEMBER
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

February 23, 2010

**Re: SUPPORT of HB 5041, An Act Concerning Cross-Reporting of
Child Abuse and Animal Cruelty**

Dear Senator Musto, Representative Urban, Senator Meyer, Representative Jarmoc, and
Honorable Members of the Select Committee on Children,

I thank the Select Committee on Children for raising this bill, of which I am in strong
support.

The link between violence against animals and violence against people is well-
documented: the FBI considers animal cruelty a reasonable predictor of violence and as
such, uses animal cruelty as an indicator when profiling serial killers¹.

In 1997, a survey of 50 of the largest shelters for battered women in the United States
found that 85% of women and 63% of children entering shelters discussed incidents of
animal abuse in their households². This can be problematic if victims do not seek
sanctuary and/or professional help out of fear for the safety of their family pets.

A study by the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and
Northeastern University found that 70 percent of animal abusers have committed at least
one other criminal offense, and that almost 40 percent had committed violent crimes

¹ Lockwood, Randall, "Deadly Serious: An FBI Perspective on Animal Cruelty", The Humane Society of the
United States, 1997.

² Ascione, F. R. 1997. The abuse of animals and domestic violence: a national survey of shelters for women
who are battered. *Society and Animals*, 5(3): 205-218.

against people. They also found that individuals who had engaged in animal abuse as children were five times more likely to commit violent crimes, four times more likely to commit property crimes, and three times more likely to have drug or disorderly conduct offenses than a matched group of non animal abusers³.

Disturbingly but not unexpectedly, children who are victims of domestic violence may also become animal abusers themselves: a 1995 study found that 32% of the victims of domestic abuse reported that one or more of their children had hurt or killed a pet⁴.

Animal abuse often does not happen in isolation. This proposed legislation is prudent in that it helps to establish a more comprehensive strategy to address societal violence.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annie Hornish". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Rep. Annie Hornish

³ http://support.mspca.org/site/PageServer?pagename=lawenforce_Link_Animal_Abuse_Other_Crimes

⁴ Ascione, F. R. 1995. Domestic violence and cruelty to animals. Paper presented at the 4th International Conference on Family Violence, Durham, NH, July 24, 1995.