



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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Committee on Education Public Hearing February 23, 2011

Testimony on House Bill 6320, An Act Concerning The Inclusion of Humane Education in the Public School Curriculum.

Senator Andrew Fleischmann, Senator Toni Boucher, Representative Andrea Stillman
and Representative Marilyn Giuliano and Members of the Education Committee

I want to thank the committee for raising HB 6320.

I am writing in support of HB 6320. This bill supports humane education in the public school curriculum and creates an in-service training program for teachers and school administrators.

Humane Education is an important subject matter for me; I have proposed and co-sponsored similar legislation on this issue.

Humane Education promotes compassion, it teaches students to be responsible and nurturing while encouraging respect for all living beings. It allows students to discover solutions that will cultivate values by teaching them how empathy for animals is interconnected and an essential part of a healthy society. It also provides the knowledge and the tools to put these values into action while instilling respect and responsibility for their environment.

There are many young people who are not provided this basic knowledge.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, animal abusers are more likely to become violent offenders. Children who learn to consider the feelings of living animals are less likely to grow up to be abusers or violent criminals.

Teaching students empathy is a fundamental part in shaping them to become well adjusted, caring and thoughtful citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill