



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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MEMBER  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
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INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

February 9, 2011

Senator Edward Meyer  
Representative Richard Roy  
Members of the Environment Committee

**RE: HB 5008 AN ACT CONCERNING THE QUARANTINE OF BITING GUIDE DOGS**

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 5008 which deals with guide dogs. Last summer I received a letter from one of my constituents whose guide dog "Barkley" was out in her backyard playing, an oil truck delivery was being made. Barkley loves to play and he especially loves to play with his Frisbee. The driver had picked up the Frisbee and Barkley thought it was time to play "tug-of-war". The driver suffered a slight cut on his middle finger.

Due to that incident the dog was placed on two-week quarantine. Even though it was explained that there was NO attack and that the driver was "playing" with the dog, she was told there were no exceptions to this rule.

My constituent is totally blind. The quarantine of her dog in effect quarantined her. The dog was up to date on all his shots and was not a threat to others. What this bill is asking us to do is to treat a guide dog in the same manner as police dogs. I would ask you to move this bill forward through our legislative process with a joint favorable vote.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JA", written over a horizontal line.

Joseph Aresimowicz  
Deputy Speaker