

Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5446
Angela G. Colantonio

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of Raised Bill, 5446, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT PROCEDURE FOR THE STERILIZATION AND VACCINATION OF CERTAIN DOGS AND CATS AND PROVIDING FOR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER TRAINING.

I am a registered voter in Wethersfield, who advocates on behalf of animals and encourages legislators to support animal rights initiatives. As an individual who shares a home with many companion animals, I know that caring for another being is a serious responsibility. Unfortunately, many stray animals do not have a home because people do not realize the work involved in properly caring for a companion animal and feel that freeing them into the streets releases them from the burden of caring for another being. However, the stray animal population then becomes an issue for society. The problem is compounded when animals who are not spayed/neutered blamelessly follow their natural instincts to reproduce and have litters, bringing animals into the world that are not guaranteed a home and a loving guardian. Raised Bill 5446 is part of the solution to this problem. It is imperative that we give animal control officers the professional training they need to make informed, humane decisions in the interest of both animals and society at large. Additionally, it is important for animal control officers to be prepared to confront the challenges of their job in a moral and ethical manner. It is not right to allow bright, inquisitive, sentient animals to be brought into this world irresponsibly. As someone who has spent countless hours volunteering for the Connecticut Humane Society, I have seen many unwanted cats, dogs, and litters be dropped off at the shelter through no fault of their own. It is difficult to look into the eyes of an animal who has no home or guardian and who may have been brought into the world simply because an animal was never spayed/neutered. Once an animal comes into this world it is our moral obligation to see that the beings brought into existence as a result of human thoughtlessness and insensitivity are afforded the care and respect every animal deserves. If we are not prepared to take care of these individuals properly we must be prepared to take measures to prevent accidental litters of cats, dogs, and other companion animals. We can be proactive and prevent these sad, unfortunate situations by supporting Raised Bill 5446. We must do what we can to ensure that the number of companion animals in our state does not exceed the amount of time, resources, and care that our citizens have to offer. Raised Bill 5446 is an effective way to prevent the population of stray animals from growing and will allow Connecticut to be a leader in enforcing laws that address this national problem. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and be a voice for the animals. I hope you will strongly support this critical piece of legislation.

For the animals,
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