



Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5443 • March 15, 2012
Graphic Designer for Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary

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 Vernon, and I am a Graphic Designer for Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary.

I have loved animals even since I can remember. Growing up, my family always took in the stray cats of the neighborhood, there always seemed to be many. In fact, my first best friend was a Siamese named Sultan. As I grew up, I quickly learned that not everyone shared my deep love of animals, which made me want to fight for them. I was so happy to stumble upon this amazing organization, Our Companions, who stood for everything I believed in.

I first started volunteering for Our Companions about five years ago by designing the flyers for pets looking for a home. I remember the first time I sat at my computer to start the first batch of flyers. I was staggered by the sheer number of pets looking for a home, and as I read their stories, I began to cry.

Five years later, there is still a constant stream of animals looking for a home. This needs to stop. The animals need to be sterilized before they get into the public's hands. If the animal control officers had been able to sterilize these animals, I believe there would be far fewer posters for me to design.

Education is key. By training the animal control officers and educating both them and the public, we can gradually reduce the huge number of homeless animals.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

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