

Nadia Doe
Foster Parent and Volunteer with Companion Pet Rescue

I truly appreciate the opportunity to present my testimony and express my support regarding this Act, SB253, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Animal Importation Statutes.

I am a registered voter in Baltic, Connecticut and a student at Charter Oak State College in New Britain.

For the last eight years I have been pursuing my dream to be an Animal Law attorney while working full time, attending school, and raising two children. Last year, I started fostering for a wonderful organization called Companion Pet Rescue in an effort to keep busy on maternity leave. This rescue pulls dogs from high kill shelters in the South, gets them fully vetted, spays/neuters them, and transports them to the North East to find better homes. Fostering dogs pulled me out of a terrible postpartum depression and provided me with a way to educate my family and friends about the importance of rescue. This opportunity meant the world to me and was rewarding in ways I cannot express without provoking tears.

When this new law went into effect, I was no longer able to foster dogs due to the number of veterinary visits required. Our shelter is located in Southbury and I live about ninety minutes away. Due to the cost of gas coupled with my limited funds as a student and young mother, I cannot afford to drive there and back quite so often. I still volunteer during adoption events and have recently taken up grant writing, but my house is not the same without the addition of foster dogs.

Additionally, our non-profit rescue was forced to rent a space for the use of a shelter to make it easier for a veterinarian to do multiple health checks at once on a weekly basis. Our funds are quickly draining and our volunteers are devastated at the loss of foster privileges. Fostering is now done on an emergency basis and we are unfortunately left with no choice but to keep our dogs in a shelter while they are here in Connecticut, instead of keeping them in the comfort of a foster home where we can train them and monitor their health more closely.

I want to thank you for reading my testimony. **Please consider supporting this bill to ease the financial burden on compassionate non-profit groups who already struggle with funding their efforts.** I understand the need for health checks in Connecticut due to the presence of a handful of fraudulent groups, but it truly creates setbacks for groups that are doing a lot of good for this world and for the sake of animals.

Thank you,

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