

**Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5446**  
**Kay McCarthy**  
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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 so overwhelmed with the stories of how some of our municipal shelters are run and the incompetence of the Animal Control Officers involved, as well as their indifference to the plight of the animals in their care.

Connecticut has a system in which people are hired as animal control officers with no training in enforcing animal protection laws, insuring public safety, or caring for the animals for which they are responsible. Many of them don't even like animals and have no business being in the business at all.

Animal Control Officers often find themselves in dangerous situations with no training to call upon, and many professional animal control officers recognize the great need for training and will support this important piece of legislation. This bill will require much-needed training, as well as continuing education, for every Animal Control Officer in our State. Hopefully, this will create animal control officers who are professional, competent and genuinely interested in the work of animal protection and public safety.

Raised bill 5446 will also provide a much-needed procedure that will allow Animal Control Officers to redeem the Animal Population Control Program's Spay/Neuter voucher before the release of the animal from the shelter. This will enable conscientious Animal Control Officers to make sure that adopted animals leave the pound vaccinated for rabies and sterilized so they are not a public safety threat and so more unwanted animals are not born.

There are many Animal Control Officers, prosecutors, municipal officials and citizens who want to improve the performance and reputation of Connecticut Animal Control Officers for the good of all ACO's, the community, and the animals in their care.

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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