

Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5836
Angela Grace Colantonio

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of Raised Bill, 5836 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING FOR THE VACCINATION, STERILIZATION AND HEART WORM TESTING OF DOGS AND CATS OWNED BY LOW INCOME PERSONS OR ADOPTED FROM MUNICIPAL OR REGIONAL SHELTERS

I am a registered voter in Wethersfield, who advocates on behalf of animals and encourages legislators to support animal rights initiatives. I believe that all residents of Connecticut, regardless of their socioeconomic background, should be able to share their lives and homes with a companion animal in a responsible manner. All dogs and cats should be spayed or neutered to prevent increases in the number of stray animals and the number of companion animals that end up in shelters.

The state should definitely shift animal control funds to programs that assist populations in greatest need of assistance with caring for their animals properly. As a former volunteer at the Connecticut Humane Society, I know that there are many dogs and cats in need of homes. The price of vaccinations, sterilization, and health tests should not deter anyone from caring for their animal companions in a responsible, healthy way and taking preventative measures to controlling the animal companion population. Additionally, from personal experience, and after doing pet therapy with my dog for two years, I know that there are many health benefits associated with caring for a dog or cat. Low-income people should be able to experience these benefits by sharing their homes with a dog or cat that is spayed or neutered without worrying about the cost of procedures, tests, and vaccines.

In short, there are many reasons to support this bill: it helps to more effectively control the animal companion population, it promotes the health of cats and dogs, it allows low-income individuals to experience the countless benefits of having an animal companion, and it is cost neutral.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and be a voice for the animals. I hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

For the animals,
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