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Testimony Concerning HB 5844 • March 10, 2013
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I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of Raised Bill 5844, to prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10pm and 6am, and require that chained dogs have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.

I am a registered voter in Vernon, and I am a graphic designer and volunteer for Our Companions Animal Rescue.

I have been an animal lover my entire life and it shocks me that anyone in their right mind would leave a beautiful, domesticated animal outside 24/7, especially during harsh weather. Any number of predators could come by, not to mention rabid ones, and unfortunately, the dog would have no escape. Dogs need socialization to be happy and healthy, they need a loving family. Why bother to have a dog if you aren't going to care for him/her properly? We all know how brutally cold our New England winters can be with temperatures often getting into the single digits. You cannot tell me it's fair to leave a dog outside in that weather. That's a no-brainer.

As a young child, I remember our neighbor had a dog that lived outside on a chain all the time. I was told never to go near the dog as he might bite. One day, the dog got loose while we were outside playing. He was so excited to be free and so desperately needed attention, he ran towards us. My friend and I ran to our front door which made him even more excited. Luckily, we reached the door in time and no one was hurt, but this story could have easily ended badly. All a chained dog wants to do is get free. We were very lucky. How many other children might not be.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation. It is imperative that we keep these dogs safe at night and through our harsh winters.

Thank you,

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