



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE AUDEN GROGINS**  
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 4029  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

HOME: 203-366-3245  
CAPITOL: 800-842-8267  
E-MAIL: Auden.Grogins@cga.ct.gov

**DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER**

**MEMBER**  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony of State Representative Auden Grogins in support of  
HB5844 AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND THE  
TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS.

Environment Committee Public Hearing

Friday, March 15, 2013

Representative Gentile, Senator Meyer and members of the Environment Committee, for the record my name is State Representative Auden Grogins and I represent the 129<sup>th</sup> District in Bridgeport. I am submitting testimony in favor of H.B. 5844, Act AAC Prohibiting the Overnight Tethering of Dogs Outdoors and under certain weather conditions.

Thank you for holding this public hearing and giving me the opportunity to testify on this legislation here today.

In 2010, we passed a law regulating the practice of excessive chaining and confining of a dog. Excessive chaining and excessive confinement of a dog, goes to the heart of animal cruelty and is inhumane. This is also a public safety issue. Specifically, studies show that excessive chaining is associated with dog aggression and biting.

Unfortunately, our Animal Cruelty Law and the current tethering law do not address the overnight chaining issue and the chaining of dogs in extreme weather conditions. This bill takes the tethering law one step further, by prohibiting the overnight tethering of dogs outdoors and the tethering of dogs in extreme weather conditions, where shelter is necessary for their well being.

Through my duties as a State Representative, I have encountered many situations where dogs have been left outside in freezing cold weather, chained to a tree, without any shelter. I have also seen dogs chained for 12-15 hours at a time in extreme heat. This very cruel and unfortunate situation is more uncommon than not. These inhumane conditions not only jeopardize the health and welfare of the dogs and cannot be labeled as anything else but animal cruelty.

I would submit to you that this specific law is very important, as the current animal cruelty law is too broad to address this issue. This bill will make prohibiting these cruel practices easier for animal control officers to enforce.

As a member of the Legislators for Animal Advocacy in our Connecticut General Assembly, and on behalf of my constituents, pet owners and animal supporters in Connecticut, I urge you to pass this very important legislation.

In closing, I thank you for your indulgence and your consideration of this legislation and with that I would be glad to answer any questions committee members may have.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Auden Grogins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Auden Grogins,  
Representative of 129<sup>th</sup> District