

April 5, 2013

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing Testimony

HB 6690 AN ACT CONCERNING COURT PROCEEDINGS AND THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS.

Testimony from Dr. Nanette Tummers
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Advocate and volunteer, Our Companions Animal Rescue

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify IN SUPPORT of H.B. 6690.

Animals, like children, cannot advocate on their own behalf. In Connecticut, children often have court-appointed advocates to speak on their behalf during cases of abuse. This bill, if passed, will allow court-appointed advocates for animals during legal proceedings that concern the animals' welfare or custody.

Not only would this bill provide an advocate in court for an egregiously injured animal, but it would also document the animal's injuries and level of suffering, and help the court make decisions for the animal's welfare.

Violent behavior should be treated seriously in our courts, and victims of abuse, whether human or non-human, deserve to be represented justly

I thank you for considering my testimony on this important piece of legislation.