

Testimony in Support of Bill HB 6690

Dear Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Fox, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 6690, which would allow animals victimized by cruelty to have a court advocate represent their interests. This bill would strengthen the state's stance on cruelty to both animals and humans because the two are linked.

The Humane Society of the United States says, "A number of studies have drawn links between the abuse of animals and violence against people. A 2001-2004 study by the Chicago Police Department "revealed a startling propensity for offenders charged with crimes against animals to commit other violent offenses toward human victims." Of those arrested for animal crimes, 65% had been arrested for battery against another person. Of 36 convicted multiple murderers questioned in one study, 46% admitted committing acts of animal torture as adolescents. And of seven schools shootings that took place across the country between 1997 and 2001, all involved boys had previously committed acts of animal cruelty." *

This bill is also cost effective, as volunteers will be enlisted from animal welfare groups, law students, and law firms.

Please support HB 6690.

Thank you.

Caitlin Sorge
Bethlehem, CT

*Source of quote:

http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/abuse_neglect/qa/cruelty_violence_connection_faq.html