

## McCall, Brandon

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**From:** Deborah Robinson <deborahrobinson1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 03, 2013 6:05 PM  
**To:** Jud Testimony  
**Subject:** HB 6690

**Categories:** Red Category

To whom it may concern:

I write today in support of HB 6690, which would allow courts to appoint a separate volunteer legal advocate to represent the interests of an animal that is part of a case in which the welfare or custody of the animal is at issue.

Too often these cases, even including criminal animal abuse trials, ignore the interests of the animal and focus only on the people involved, which tends to minimize the significance of these crimes. It is well known by now that abuse of animals is a red flag for future violent behavior, yet too often abusers are granted accelerated rehabilitation or something of even less value as a deterrent to that future behavior.

It is time that Connecticut started taking animal abuse seriously, in terms of both the suffering of the animals and danger that animal abusers present to society as a whole. Allowing the appointment of an advocate for the victim in these cases - and in other cases where, perhaps, custody matters stand to be decided with no attention paid to the needs of the animal - will be an important and worthwhile step toward improving the protection of animals and people here.

Sincerely,  
Deb Robinson

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