

April 5, 2013

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing Testimony

HB 6690:

AN ACT CONCERNING COURT PROCEEDINGS AND THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS.

Testimony From Dina Marie Pratt
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Volunteer, Our Companions Animal Rescue
Member, CT Votes for Animals

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee. I would like the opportunity to testify 'IN SUPPORT' of H.B. 6690.

Animals are innocent and need people to speak on their behalf. In Connecticut, children often have court-appointed advocates to speak on their behalf during cases of abuse. If this bill is passed it will allow court-appointed advocates for animals during legal proceedings that concern the animals' welfare and custody.

Advocates for animals are desperately needed in this state and there has been a growing number of cases, in which animals have been horribly abused in unspeakable ways (too horrific for me to even imagine!) Unfortunately the offenders of these crimes rarely pays a penalty that match the severity of their violent crime.

This bill will provide advocates in court for these poor injured animals and will also document the animals injuries and level of suffering they sustained, which will help the court make decisions for the animal's welfare.

Any type of violence should be treated seriously in our courts. Whether the victims are human or non-human, they deserve to be represented justly. Our society needs to speak for our voiceless innocent creatures, and take violent acts of animal cruelty seriously! It has been proven time and time again that cruelty to animals is a precursor to future and escalating violent behavior toward people.

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

Dina Marie Pratt