

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

Please accept this as my testimony (for public hearing held on 4/5/13) in **SUPPORT of HB 6690**, AAC Court proceedings and the protection of animals.

I vote, and this issue is important to me.

I support HB 6690 because:

- Research has established strong links between violent behaviors toward humans and violent behaviors toward animals.
- Law enforcement agencies must take violence toward animals seriously; prosecutions must be encouraged.
 - Having court advocates for animals would be done at no cost by enlisting volunteer representation for animals from animal welfare groups, law students, and law firms.
 - Teaching humans to behave with kindness and respect toward animals will help to build a more humane society.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

Gerry Holmes

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