

**April 5, 2013**

**Judiciary Committee Public Hearing Testimony**

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

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

As a pet blogger I come across too many instances of abused animals with no-one to advocate on their behalf. Advocates for animals are desperately needed in our state.

Instances where animals have been horribly abused, while the perpetrator receives little to no punishment occur far too often in this state.

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.

Studies have shown abuse of an animal is more often than not the beginning in a pattern of violence which escalates from animals, to children and then on to spouses and in some instances non-related members of society. Violent behavior should be treated seriously in our courts, and victims of abuse, whether human or non-human, deserve to be represented justly.

Our society needs not only to speak for our voiceless creatures, but we need to take such violent acts of animal cruelty seriously, and prosecute perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law.

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

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