

**April 5, 2013**

**Judiciary Committee Public Hearing Testimony**

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

Testimony from Julie A. Polansky  
18 Patricia Drive, Vernon, CT 06066

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify IN SUPPORT of H.B. 6690.

This bill, if passed, will allow court-appointed advocates for animals during legal proceedings that concern the animals' welfare or custody. I have personally witnessed the affect abuse has had on animals. They can suffer long-term, often permanent, physical and mental impairments and issues. Court-appointed advocates for animals are desperately needed as the victim of the abuse cannot advocate for themselves.

Violence toward any living creature, whether human or animal, should be taken seriously and handled appropriately within the court system. Not only would this bill provide an advocate in court for injured animals, but it would also document the animal's injuries and level of suffering, and help the court make decisions for the animal's welfare.

The problem of animal suffering persists because the laws that protect animals need to be dramatically improved. Connecticut rates in the bottom half of states in overall strength and comprehensiveness of animal laws. Passing HB 6690 will help move our State forward in the protection of animals.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns and consider my testimony on this important piece of legislation.