



**April 5, 2013**  
**Judiciary Committee Public Hearing Testimony**  
**HB 6690 "An Act Concerning Court Proceedings and the Protection of Animals"**

I would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to express my SUPPORT of HB 6690, to allow for a court advocate to speak on behalf of abused animals.

Animal abuse is unfortunately a growing problem in our society, and yet rarely does the punishment fit the crime. Why is that? A large reason for this problem is that the animal cannot speak for him or herself, cannot tell her story, cannot recount the details of exactly what happened, like our human companions can. This needs to change.

We all know by now that sooner or later, animal abuse leads to other kinds of abuse, usually involving humans. By giving the animals an advocate, we are giving them the best kind of voice we can, and we are helping them to get some kind of justice against these desperate, twisted individuals who hurt them. We are also hopefully throwing up a "red flag," that this person needs immediate help to prevent further suffering to another animal or person.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Mandy Wieting

---