

**Pachkovsky, Alex**

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**From:** Melissa Savilonis <msavilonis@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 02, 2013 5:12 PM  
**To:** Jud Testimony  
**Cc:** ahornish@humanesociety.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for 4/5 public hearing-- SUPPORT HB 6690 (court advocates for animals)

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,  
Melissa A. Savilonis  
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