

**April 5, 2013**  
**Judiciary Committee Public Hearing**  
**Testimony**

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

Testimony from Paul Johnson, 230 Farmington Avenue, Apt. A5, Hartford, CT 06105

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

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, as it has been proven time and time again that cruelty to animals is a precursor to future and escalating violent behavior toward people.

Animals, like children, cannot advocate on their own behalf. In Connecticut, children often have court-appointed advocates to speak on their behalf during cases of abuse. This bill, if passed, will allow court-appointed advocates for animals during legal proceedings that concern the animals' welfare or custody.

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