

EM

Pachkovsky, Alex

From: Wendy & Todd Davis <steelecreek@cox.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2013 7:29 PM
To: Jud Testimony
Subject: Bill 6690

As a dog owner, breeder and someone who works within the veterinary community, I certainly do not want to see Bill 6690 go forward.

I am deeply concerned with the unintended, and potentially far-reaching, consequences this proposal will have on the legal status of animals in Connecticut.

Bill 6690 will result in legal controversies about who is responsible for an animal, and will ultimately impact the ability and rights of pet owners to freely choose the most appropriate course of care and treatment for their pets.

Based on the long-standing legal traditions of both the United States and the State of Connecticut, pets are considered the property of their owners while benefitting from laws governing their care and treatment. Traditionally, animal owners have the sole rights and responsibilities over the care of their animals. However, under the provisions of HB 6690, individual owners would lose dominion over their animals by having to share those rights with courts and third parties. As a result, appointees could use the courts to force a person to make decisions that they believe to not be in the best interest of their animal. Additionally, providing for such advocates, who are usually reserved to protect the interests of minors or other people lacking legal capacity, may fundamentally impact their legal status as property. The current law does not confuse the roles incumbent to animal owners, and protects animals and their owners better than the law would if HB 6690 is enacted.

Please do not support this bill.

Wendy Davis