

Dear Representative Urban, Senator Bartolomeo, and Honorable Members of the Children Committee,

I am writing to you today in SUPPORT of HB 5566, which would restrict the placement of leghold traps.

I am a registered voter in Granby, Connecticut. This bill is extremely important to me.

These traps are cruel, non selective and pose a severe danger to both children and domestic pets. These leghold traps commonly cause significant and hideous injuries, during the initial snap and/or while the animal in a panicked state tries to free itself. Numerous accounts are reported every year of unintended, (non target) animals being caught in these traps. The traps themselves are indiscriminate by nature. These accounts are likely to be much higher, as only the accounts brought to the media are reported. I am happy to see a provision in this bill that requires trappers to report the true number of non- target catches, (such as pets) to the DEEP.

I am now asking that a provision be added to include body-crushing traps, also known as conibear traps . These traps are meant to kill animals by breaking their spines, these body crushing traps only work as intended when the target animal enters the trap perfectly. This is a condition that is difficult to control in nature. When not entered perfectly an animal is not killed outright and is caused, as you can imagine, horrendous suffering. These body crushing traps also pose an extreme safety risk to our curious pets and to our curious children, because of the force in which they slam shut and the amount of damage they are intended to perform.

I do not believe the State of Connecticut should be condoning such cruelty or putting our children and our pets at such unnecessary risk. Precedent exists in eight states that restrict or ban the use of leghold and body crushing traps: Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Washington, Arizona, California, Colorado and Florida.

I am pleased and I thank you for holding a public hearing on this important matter. I now ask that when it comes up for your voting consideration, that you do vote in SUPPORT of HB 5566.

Sincerely,
Donna G. Newton
42 Meadowbrook Road
Granby, CT 06035