



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
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Testimony
Representative Kim Rose
HB 6311
118th District, Milford
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Chairman Cassano, Chairman Rojas, and Honorable members of the Planning and Development Committee, I am here to testify in strong support of HB 6311, An Act Prohibiting Municipalities from Adopting Breed Specific Dangerous Dog Ordinances.

I am here testifying before you today in support of this act on behalf of Lisa Taylor-Austin, who was unable to be present today. Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) has proven to not work. It is an emotional reaction to a *human*, not canine, situation. Unfortunately, pit bulls are the most abused and euthanized dog in America today. We have placed prejudicial notions onto pit bulls when, in fact, the responsibility should be placed on irresponsible owners. Over and over again, pit bulls are abused, tortured and murdered, due to the actions of humans. It has to stop.

Furthermore, BSL is costly and does not reduce dog bites. The United Kingdom's Dangerous Dog Act bans the American Pit Bull Terrier and three other breeds of dogs and their crossbreeds. Yet reports from the U.K. indicate that dog bites requiring hospital treatment have not decreased. Rather, 4,328 dog bites were reported treated by U.K. hospitals in 1999, whereas in the year ending April 2011 there were 6,118 such treatments—an increase of 41% over ten years [HES data]. The U.K. also continues to experience approximately four dog bite fatalities per year.

Some possible alternatives to BSL are containment laws, abuse prevention, safety education, spay and neuter assistance, breeder regulation, low cost training, and stiffer penalties for dog fighters, those who attend dog fights, and animal abuse. BSL is unnecessary and only punishes responsible dogs and owners. On behalf of Lisa Taylor-Austin, and myself, I urge you to join us in fully supporting proposed HB 6311.

I thank you for your consideration.