

Public Testimony on Bill 6488

Carly Imhoff

3/18/13

Honorable Senators and Representatives, thank you for your time. My name is Carly Imhoff and I am a public school science teacher. In addition, I attend the School of Social Work at The University of Connecticut.

I am also the owner of a fifteen year old husky that I have had since I was a child. That is why I am here today to testify on Bill 6488: An Act Concerning the Evacuation and Temporary Sheltering of Animals During Emergencies. I am for this legislation and I hope that you will support it.

According to a Gallup poll, six out of ten Americans have some type of pet. Often during natural disasters humans evacuate to shelters and hotels that might not take their pets, especially large animals. People may choose not to evacuate and they might put themselves at risk in order to stay with their animals during a disaster. Not providing temporary shelter for pets during natural disasters can become a safety issue for the owner. When returning from school after severe weather, my students often are most concerned about their pets' safety. The children generally feel that their safety is assured but they worry about the pets they've left behind. During Hurricane Sandy, I paid 60 dollars a night for my dog to stay in a boarding facility while I stayed in a hotel. I am fortunate that I could afford to do this and that there was space available at a boarding center that I trust. However, this is not the case for all animals and their owners. The evacuation and temporary sheltering of animals during emergencies deserves your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.