

Testimony Concerning HB5027
Dr. Regina N. Milano
WHHS Humane Club

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to express our support of HB 5027: AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS.

I am a registered voter in West Haven, and I am a teacher, wildlife rehabilitator, volunteer and a member of the WHHS Humane Club. The student members of Humane Club, listed below, are also participating in this testimony.

Among all of the abuses that take place toward animals, puppy mills are among the worst. The parent animals suffer unspeakable pain and suffering as they are overbred, exposed to harsh cold and hot weather, are confined in extremely small spaces and not given medical care when they need it. The parent animals are sometimes left to starve to death or die of thirst. We have seen one incident in which the cage of a mother dog had rusted shut. When the animals can no longer be used to reproduce, owners may shoot them, stick a needle in their heart to kill them or just leave them to languish.

The puppies are then shipped, often in large trucks with poor ventilation for hours without food and water. They arrive at a pet store only to be placed into another small cage until they are bought, if they are bought. The lack of adequate mandates on pet stores to provide proper care for the animals mean that these pups risk poor treatment by the staff.

Overall, breeding leads to more problems of pet over population and perfectly loving animals in shelters never find homes.

There is a pet store near our school that sells puppies. They have been reported many times for not providing care for dogs with parvo virus and for not letting the dogs out of their cages at all. Yet, they are still in business. This whole industry must stop.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly **SUPPORT HB 5027** this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Dr. Regina Milano

Jane Ciarlone

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Students Members of Humane Club:

Brittany Cabral, Amanda Colon, Rebecca Collins, Shannon Card, Florence Diaz, Feissal DJoule,
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