

Testimony in Support of Bill HB 5836

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 5836, which would utilize existing funds in state's Animal Population Control Program (APCP), to expand spay/neuter and vaccination benefits to pets belonging to low-income families.

The Humane Society of the United States says, "The number of homeless animals varies by state – in some states there are many as 300,000 homeless animals euthanized in animal shelters every year. These are not the offspring of homeless "street" animals – these are the puppies and kittens of cherished family pets and even purebreds. Many people are surprised to learn that nationwide more than 3 million cats and dogs are euthanized in shelters. Spay/neuter is the only permanent, 100 percent effective method of birth control for dogs and cats."

The individuals in CT who qualify for the APCP are often not able to afford the difference between what this voucher covers and what the actual price of the surgery costs. Low-income individuals have difficulty with accessing transportation and are not able to travel to the few low cost options provided in CT. I have seen this issue first hand as a social worker assisting clients who are eager to make this responsible decision to spay/neuter their companion animals but cannot afford it.

Please help alleviate pet overpopulation and the burden of overcrowding in our state's animal shelters by supporting HB 5836.

Thank you.

Caitlin Sorge
Bethlehem, CT

*Source for quote:

http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/pet_overpopulation/facts/why_spay_neuter.html