

Testimony Concerning HB 5836

Charlene W. Rogers

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I would like to thank the Environmental committee for this opportunity to express my support of HB 5836 *to utilize existing Connecticut APCP funds to expand benefits to low income families.*

I am a registered voter in Burlington, and I am the Municipal Animal Control Officer with the Farmington Police Department for over twenty years.

During my daily shift I am contacted by residents of Farmington who are unemployed, elderly or impaired and are of low-income status, that have a pet that in need of neutering and vaccinations. These residents have a limited budget though they adequately care for their pets but are unable to afford the neutering and vaccinations.

The Connecticut APCP program has been a great success because of Frank Ribaudo and with the existing money within the program I support that this legislation to allow low-income families the ability to have their pet neutered and vaccinated.

By having these funds available to low-income families there will be less unwanted litters, less chance of a rabies exposure, a decrease in feral cats and abandoned dogs. There will also be an increase in viral immunity resulting in healthier pets for everyone!

I respond to numerous feral cat and kittens living in adverse conditions and abandoned dogs and puppies left in secluded and public areas of town to fend for themselves. These unwanted animals are usually a result of random breeding and expensive veterinary costs that deter some people from taking their pet to a veterinarian because of financial constraints.

The number of unwanted pets could be decreased with the help of this much needed resource.

Please support this important House Bill 5836 to allow low-income families that love their pets, the opportunity to have financial assistance for preventative veterinary care.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill 5836 to decrease the number of future litters and sick dogs and cats that reproduce and spread disease in our towns and cities.

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