

**Testimony Concerning Bill 5836**  
**Jonathan Finger**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of Bill 5836, concerning the expansion of spay/neuter benefits to pets in low-income families.

I am a registered voter in New Haven, CT.

Companion animal overpopulation in America is a problem that has many causes. One of the most prominent causes is that people either don't take the time to spay and neuter their pets or they simply don't have the means to. Many states in America have passed laws requiring the sterilization of animals adopted from animal shelters.

According to [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org), "Spaying or neutering your pet is an important decision for pet owners. As animal lovers who value our pets, it is important to understand the impact of this decision. ... In every community, in every state, there are homeless animals. In the U.S. as a whole, there are an estimated 6 to 8 million homeless animals entering animal shelters every year. About half of these animals are adopted, and tragically, the other half are euthanized. These are healthy, sweet pets who would have made great companions.

This mass euthanization can be prevented and this bill aims to address this problem. I urge you to consider its importance.

Thank you,

Jonathan Finger  
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