

Testimony Concerning HB 5836
Paula Fischer
Our Companions Animal Rescue

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of [HB 5836](#), a bill that would utilize existing funds in the state's Animal Population Control Program (APCP), to expand spay/neuter and vaccination benefits to pets belonging to low-income families.

I am a registered voter in West Hartford, and I am a long time, passionate volunteer and former Board member of Our Companions Animal Rescue.

Everyone deserves the love of a pet, no matter what income level. Yet, veterinary services have become so expensive that many pet owners cannot afford proper care, especially if the animal isn't sick. Therefore, many lower income pet owners will not spay or neuter, adding to the problem of pet overpopulation. I know of others who have considered taking in a stray dog or cat, but because they cannot afford to have the pet spayed/neutered along with other vet care, they'd leave the pet on the street to fend for themselves.

By providing spay/neuter and vaccination benefits to pets belonging to low income families, you are not only helping reduce pet homelessness and improving the quality of life of pets but also gifting the love and joy pets provide to families that would not otherwise have the means to experience it.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify, and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Paula Fischer
860.233.6403
paulafischer62@aol.com