

**Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5844**  
**Angela Grace Colantonio**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of Raised Bill, 5446, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS

I am a registered voter in Wethersfield, who advocates on behalf of animals and encourages legislators to support animal rights initiatives. Dogs are domesticated animals that were bred to live alongside humans. Therefore, I believe dogs should not be left chained outdoors at night, or during extreme weather conditions. I am not alone in thinking that dogs should not be tethered –national organizations, including The Humane Society of the United States, the United States Department of Agriculture, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Association of Shelter Veterinarians, also express that it is not safe or humane to tether dogs. Furthermore, in a state with a climate that can range from hot, humid summers to frigid, snowy winters, it is not humane to expose dogs to such extreme weather conditions. Considering dogs come in all different sizes, colors, and coats, dogs cannot universally tolerate the same weather conditions and should be kept inside, where the climate is more controlled.

Each night, my dog Nella sleeps at the foot of my bed, breathing a deep sigh of contentment as she curls up in her favorite spot. All dogs should be able to experience the same feeling of contentment and companionship with humans. I know from personal experience that dogs can be great friends during life's storms and trials, and it would be unfair to return the favor by tethering a dog outside in the elements during an actual storm. Raised Bill 5844 would ensure that dogs in Connecticut do not have to endure these inhumane conditions and, literally, be left out in the cold.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and be a voice for the animals. I hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

For the animals,  
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