

Testimony Concerning [HB 5844](#)
Paula Fischer
Our Companions Animal Rescue

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of [HB 5844](#), a bill that would prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10pm and 6am and require that chained dogs have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.

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.

Animals provide so much love and joy to humans, yet they are so often abused, neglected and forgotten. I am one of many who act as their voice, to stand up for what is right and humane. Dogs deserve to be treated with respect, not chained to a tree or pole overnight (if at all)! Please stop and put yourself in the dogs "shoes" (or paws)...and imagine being treated that way. These are animals that live to love, yet so many are treated like they don't matter. This needs to stop!

I once lived next door to a dog that was chained to a tree 24/7, and that poor dog barked so much he no longer had a "voice", his bark was so hoarse. I cannot even write about it, it hurts too much to think about. I would contact the neighbor at 2:00 am, asking them to please take their dog into their home, that it was unfair to both the dog and to me (as I could not sleep). They ignored me and said it was "their right to do what they wanted with their dog." If there was a law preventing this, I could have called the police.

I ask that you give this important Bill serious consideration and ask yourself how you would feel if you were that dog tied to that tree without proper care, shelter, love and respect. Dogs have so much to give people. Let's do the right thing and give them proper care!

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