



State of Connecticut  
SENATE

SENATOR JOSEPH J. CRISCO, JR.  
*Seventeenth District*

DEPUTY CAUCUS LEADER  
FEDERAL RELATIONS LIAISON

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*Member*  
Legislative Management Committee

Testimony

In Support of  
H.B. No. 5044: An Act Concerning Domesticated Horses

February 28, 2014  
Environment Committee

Good afternoon Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and distinguished members of the Environment Committee.

For the record, I am Senator Joe Crisco. I represent the 17<sup>th</sup> District, which includes the towns of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby Hamden Naugatuck and Woodbridge.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 5044: An Act Concerning Domesticated Horses.

This bill is particularly important to my constituents in Bethany.

The Town of Bethany has long been known as home to many equestrians, equestrian centers and riding stables. My constituents are members of local horse clubs and are passionate equestrians. Residents from other towns board their horses at Bethany stables and children from area towns learn to ride and care for horses at Bethany's equestrian centers.

If horses are deemed to be vicious and inclined to mischief, they would become very difficult to insure, and premiums would skyrocket. This would have a chilling effect on an activity pursued by many Bethany residents and on the economic viability of the Town's stables and equestrian centers.

This bill would allow civil cases involving horses to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, without the presumption that the horse is inherently vicious.

Favorable action by this Committee would be welcome news for my constituents. I, therefore, urge your support.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 5044: An Act Concerning Domesticated Horses.