



SENATE BILL 445 AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE SALE OF CATS AND DOGS FROM INHUMANE ORIGINS AT CONNECTICUT PET SHOPS.

Testimony of the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association

March 17, 2014

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Members of the Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of RB 445 as offered. The Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association represents 95% of Connecticut-licensed veterinarians. Our Association consists of individuals who have dedicated their livelihoods to the care of animals and who are passionate about animal welfare in every venue of human activity.

SB 445 seeks to require that Connecticut pet shops ensure high standards in choosing which commercial breeding enterprises they buy from, to increase and maintain a high level of transparency in pet shop operations and to improve the oversight of Connecticut pet shops by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. To the extent these enhancements focus on real animal health and welfare concerns, we applaud the proposal and support its intent. In so doing, we encourage this committee, the legislature overall and all stakeholders to pass SB 445 as written.

The USDA Animal Welfare Act enumerates animal health and welfare standards deemed acceptable for all jurisdictions. It is laudable that this committee and our state in concert with other states, will seek to maintain those standards, while also working to strengthen them and their enforcement. By doing that we will in the long term, improve animal welfare and avoid creation of perverse incentives for those seeking to avoid meeting those very standards.

We applaud your efforts.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Eva Ceranowicz DVM
Past President CVMA

Chris Gargamelli DVM
Immediate Past President CVMA

CVMA Government Affairs Committee co-chairs