



**Testimony Regarding HB 5037: AAC Cross Reporting of Child Abuse and Animal Cruelty
Committee on Children
Public hearing 2/18/2014**

**Amy Harrell
President, CT Votes for Animals**

I wish to express strong support for HB 5037, which aims to strengthen our laws requiring the cross-reporting of animal cruelty and child abuse. The link between these two abuses has been repeatedly demonstrated, and I believe we should prioritize efforts toward the early identification of potentially violent individuals.

Children and animals are among the most vulnerable in our society, and most in need of our protection. Yet violent acts are committed to them daily on a scale that horrifies all of us. When we increase our efforts to shield them from harm, we not only save them from pain and suffering, but we also invest in a more peaceful society.

Cross-reporting of child abuse and animal cruelty is an excellent way to prevent violence from happening in the first place. Please advance this legislation to further refine our cross-reporting law and protect children and animals. Thank you.