

Dear Sen. Meyer, Rep. Gentile, Sen. Chapin, and Rep. Chaban....

I want to thank you for raising HB 5416,

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LIVESTOCK CARE STANDARDS ADVISORY COUNCIL AND PROHIBITING THE USE OF CERTAIN ENCLOSURES FOR GESTATING SOWS.**

I am particularly interested in supporting Section 2 of this bill, which, if passed and signed into law, would make Connecticut the 10th state to place a ban on the placing of pigs ( sows ) into gestation crates. This cruel practice confines a pig a 2 by 7 foot crate for close to his or her whole life. The result is that a normal, loving, and highly intelligent animal is reduced to mindless and neurotic behavior that includes biting the bars of the cage/crate, often making him or her a bloody mess.

In addition to the nine states that have banned them, gestation crates have been discontinued as a use for over 60 corporations, including McDonald's, Burger King, and Wendy's. Moreover, 91% of the people of Connecticut, in a recent Mason-Divon poll, support the banning of gestation crates.

I do respect the opinion of those who say this practice is not an issue in our state. Evidence would support that position, but making sure companies that employ this practice don't move here in the future is, to me, both sensible, reasonable, and proactive. No jobs would be lost because of such a ban, nor would there be a fiscal cost, just a law that promotes decency and compassion for a living animals that have proven their capacity to love, feel, and think.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Sincerely,

Fred Camillo  
State Representative  
151st District-CT