

Testimony Concerning Bill #SB445 PET SHOP HUMANE SOURCING & Section 2 of HB 5416 PIGS

I am Hope Sweeney, Esq., a registered voter and citizen in Westport, Ct:

-I support the Task Force recommendations requiring ALL pet shops to source ONLY from rescued animals (and ban the sale of commercially-bred puppies/cats). If Chicago can do it, so can Connecticut!

-I support A phase out of selling commercially bred dogs & cats

-I support ONLY Section 2 of HB 5416 whichs prohibits gestation crates

-As a citizen, I own a rescued dog who arrived from a rescue organization clean and healthy 2 years ago. My rescued dog is now a beloved member of my family. I have witnessed pet stores selling puppies from mills, the same mills that have recent health & animal abuse violations. also, I have witnessed commercially-bred puppies arrive to a home with life threatening parvo virus (risk to both humans & dogs) and other illnesses. These mill dogs eventually end up either dead or placed with a rescue organization to handle because neither families, nor pet shops, nor commercial breeding facilities want to pay for the dog's treatment. Please require humane sourcing for public health and safety reasons as well as ethical public policy. Please refer to the U.S. Humane Society facts on puppy mills for more information.

Thank you, Hope Sweeney, Esq. Westport, CT resident citizen