

**Testimony Concerning [SB 445](#)
Kristin Song, Esq.
The Little Pink Shelter**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of SB 445.

I am a registered voter in Guilford, CT, and I am a foster home and I interview potential adopters for unwanted dogs and puppies for The Little Pink Shelter.

I have always been an advocate for animals and have just recently gotten involved as a volunteer with The Little Pink Shelter. I have always adopted rescue animals including cats, dogs and a rescue horse that was slated for slaughter. I have thankfully passed on this compassionate view to my three children and I urge you to have the same compassion for those dogs/puppies that cannot speak or protect themselves. Additionally, I respectfully request that this committee consider including in this bill the ban of stopping the sale of commercially-bred dogs in pet shops.

Maddie arrived off transport at 7am on a Saturday frightened to death. She was a beautiful purebred Golden Retriever who used over and over again for one reason only-to produce puppies to be sold for thousands of dollars. When I picked Maddie up I noticed that she was depressed, withdrawn and completely unattached to people. I brought her home and introduced her to my 8 month old rescue puppy, Dylan. She wanted nothing to do with my puppy because that is all she ever knew-puppies sucking the life out of her. Thankfully, Maddie was adopted by a wonderful couple who understood that Maddie was traumatized by her past life. I just received a note from the new owners that when they brought Maddie to their vet the vet informed them that Maddie had no upper or lower front teeth which was due to living her entire life in a kennel. She was so desperate to get out of her kennel that she actually broke her teeth off trying bite the bars to free herself. Maddie was one of the lucky puppy mill dogs. She was rescued and saved. There are so many who live out their life in horrific conditions just to be discarded or shot when their use is over.

A Mastiff, Aiden, just came into the shelter I help. The Mastiff was a stud dog for a puppy mill. His back leg was dangling. The vet said that his leg had been painfully dangling for a LONG time. He lived in massive pain and his owners never sought medical care for him. But I am sure they sold all of his puppies at a premium. His leg will probably be amputated. That an easy fix-the hard part is the emotional issues caused from never being loved, touched kindly, going hiking, feeling grass on his paws, laying on a soft bed, being in a clean environment-I could go on for pages.

I challenge this committee to watch/read Lisa Ling Investigates the Hidden World of Puppy Mills, Read more: <http://www.oprah.com/oprahshow/Lisa-Ling-Investigates-the-Hidden-World-of-Puppy-Mills#ixzz2vwtlWcEF> I am not sure you will be able to make it through the program. Lisa Ling told Oprah that out of all of her assignments the Puppy Mills were the most disturbing assignment she ever investigated.

The puppy mills are also putting an incredible burden on the shelters, rescues and volunteers. While these puppy mills and commercial stores reap the financial burdens the shelters/rescues are struggling to just keep up trying to save their cast offs. I would welcome you to visit with some of the shelters that take in the cast offs of the puppy mills. Look into those dogs eyes and tell them that YOU care. Please do the right thing and pass SB 445 and please include language that bans commercial sale of puppies. I promise you will rest your head on your pillow that night and say to yourself "I did the right thing!"

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Kristin Song Guilford, CT