

Thank you policy makers for your ongoing commitment to the people of Connecticut.

There are two bills before you today that will call upon you to advocate for the welfare of other living beings in our state.

Many cruel conditions found in puppy mills are currently legal under Federal Law. Bill S.B 445 will prohibit the sale of commercially- bred dogs in new pet shops

and phase out the sale of commercially bred dogs in the 16 pet stores that currently sell them.

Connecticut has passionate, humane rescue organizations that have many dogs available for adoption. There is no need to support puppy mills where the abuse and neglect of dogs is rampant.

Also, please ban the use of gestation crates that keep pigs confined in extremely cruel conditions. These smart, intelligent animals provide our sustenance. Please allow them to live out their short lives in a space where they can move around. We are a civilized society that should not tolerate the torture of animals who lack a voice and the power to speak on their own behalf.

Thank you very much for your attention to these important bills.

**The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.**

**Gandhi**

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