

March 19, 2015

Dear Co-Chair Kennedy, Co-Chair Albis, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

Please accept this written testimony: **Support SB 361, Support HB 5707, Oppose HB 6043.** I am writing you as a long-time Connecticut resident and tax-payer, and committed animal advocate.

I SUPPORT Senate Bill 361 with the addition of language that would prevent gestation crates from ever being used in Connecticut. I feel very strongly that penalties for malicious and intentional cruelty to animals should absolutely be increased. Without penalties to fit the crime, it is unlikely that abusers will stop their horrific criminal behavior.

I SUPPORT House Bill 5707 Beagle Freedom, which would provide adoption opportunities for dogs and cats that have been used in experiments. They have given their lives to research so please let's at least give them an opportunity to live the life as a beloved family pet. This bill would also define outdoor sheltering standards for dogs, a bill which is strongly needed to provide sufficient safety and protection for those dogs that are left outside in all kinds of weather and other possible dangers.

I OPPOSE House Bill 6034 Sunday hunting. I would like one day a week to feel safe in the woods and to have peace for myself, family and pets. Bow hunting is cruel due to high crippling rates with increased animal suffering.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully,

Sue Kautz, RN
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