

I am writing *in favor* of *House Bill 5361 An Act Concerning the Use of the Breed of Dog as an Underwriting Factor for Homeowners and Tenants Insurance Policies.*

I have been involved in the rescue and placement of dogs for Protectors of Animals for many years. POA was founded in 1975 and it is one of the oldest and most reputable rescue organizations in Connecticut.

We often rescue dogs that insurance companies might discriminate against because of their "breed." At most, they "look" like a bully breed but without a DNA test, how would you really know?

Instead, we treat each dog as an individual and consider its temperament, size, approximate age and responsiveness to training in deciding on the right placement. We never consider its "breed."

Nevertheless, adopters have taken a dog from us only to be told by their insurance company that **their loveable, well behaved and affectionate pet can't be insured.** This has caused countless dilemmas and at times, the heartbroken adopter has had to return the dog to us- a dog that could have been their family's pet in its forever home.

Please stop this discrimination by insurance companies by passing HB5361.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Abbe

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