

McCann, John

From: Glynis Simmons <tkochamp417@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 2:37 PM
To: INSTestimony; Rep. Kupchick, Brenda; G
Subject: dog discrimination

To whom it may concern ,I am unable to attend the meeting February 10th 2015 regarding HB 5361 which will prohibit insurance companies from using dog breed as a factor in the cost or availability of insurance in Connecticut. The insurance companies need to be halted in this despicable Sleezy action in order to bilk funds or deny coverage for Connecticut homeowners. I ,being very involved with animal advocacy, for all animals , have found that most people do not even know how to properly classify a canine, which leads me to believe ignorant people will just say any dog is a bully breed due to his or her appearance. which is extremely unreliable and should be disregarded, you cannot judge character of a Human or Non human by his or her appearance. Shame on anybody allowing these ridiculous judgments to be thrown around and taken seriously to the point it has created the deaths of so many animals unjustly. I would like to say that I am A owner of Two adopted dogs. I adopted them both on the same day from the same pound, neither of them ever seeing the other dog until I was ready to put them in my vehicle and bring them home, they were dubbed "pitbull mixes", they have never caused a problem with each other have showed aggression in any form. I have people of all ages in my house from children to adult, I also have other pets which have not been a problem. the biggest problem that these dogs have are humans, humans are responsible for the care and upbringing of any animal in your personal care Or reporting improper care to the proper authorities then it is up to the authorities to be sure it is corrected, which that is a whole other problem in itself because the laws are not stringent enough For people that are committing crimes against animals. It is how you raise them. Insurance companies should be thanking people for owning larger dogs because I can confidently say that I have not been robbed due to me having dogs. The insurance companies do not give refunds to people that do not have incidences of any kind, and it is absolutely astonishing how the value of your home decreases yearly yet your premiums go up considerably ,it is disgusting it is compared to organized legalize crime.They should not be able to discriminate against me, which they are discriminating against people personally for the simple reason you decided in your mind, you do not like my dog when you do not know anything about them or about the breed, I was always taught , don't believe everything you hear and people for some reason have created false fears in regards to this breed. People love to hate these dogs. please let me point out Sergeant Stubby ,the most decorated war dog in ww1 and the only dog to be nominated for a rank. Pete on the Little Rascals, all those children all day long on a movie set and you never heard of one incident, the bully breed was at one time the nanny dog and there are many more excellent things to say about these breeds. Let's not forget the term pitbull references many dogs under the bully breed. It is very loosely used and more so than not incorrectly used. There are more humans that hurt other humans yearly rather than how many dogs have hurt humans every year. please let's stick to common sense and the facts instead of the false fears that society has created around these dogs. Here are some documented facts , Connecticut has already enacted a law prohibiting municipalities from adopting breed-specific ordinances, Public Act 13 - 103 this indicates that the legislature believes Breed discrimination is not good policy therefore it makes sense to ensure that insurance companies may not participate in breed discrimination either. In a 2014 position paper released by the American veterinarian Medical Association highlights that dog breed is not a reliable indicator of a dog's potential for aggression " any dog may bite, regardless of the dogs size or sex or reported breed or mix of breeds" dog bites are usually do to up bringing, learned behavior, fear, and lack of socialization example (dogs Kept as backyard guard dogs) dog bite statistics that are unreliablebecause given so many dog mixes, it's often difficult to determine breed. Identification is often made by the neighbors, public officials, law enforcement, reporters, etc. Not necessarily by the people who work with animals and even those professionals may not know. Now with some facts being stated PLEASE Do not allow the insurance companies to discriminate against me or my dogs because of ignorance and greed. Thank You Sincerely, G.Simmons