

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: tamarane@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2015 10:08 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: In Support of HB 6187 and SB 1128

Dear Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Tong, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Please accept this testimony in SUPPORT of HB 6187, which would establish a process for appointing an advocate for an animal that is the subject of a criminal court proceeding, and in SUPPORT of SB 1128, which would prevent persons charged with committing animal abuse from using accelerated rehabilitation.

HB 6187 will help to facilitate animal cruelty prosecutions by ensuring appropriate representation for the victims.

SB 1128 will help to ensure that violence toward animals is taken seriously and promotes appropriately severe penalties as well as a record of these crimes in cases where people are responsible for causing animals to suffer.

I'm sure you've read the statistics regarding the animal abuse/domestic violence connection over and over again. However, the sad fact remains that animals have no voice in our modern "evolved" world. What happened to Desmond is, sadly, no isolated case. In 2002, I had the sad duty of watching a woman walk out of a courtroom after the judge ruled there was "not enough evidence" to convict her of starving and freezing her pit bull to death, although her neighbors reported seeing the abuse and provided testimony (the dog was locked in a cage in an unheated garage in January with no food and water out of reach). We were helpless to do anything. Her smug look as she walked past me is something I will never forget, and I urge you to give this bill the most serious consideration you can.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. You will never know how much it's appreciated.

Sincerely,

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