

Testimony Concerning HB 6187 and SB 1128
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, April 1, 2015
Teresita Interian

I would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to express my support of **HB 6187** An act concerning the protection of animals that are the subject of criminal court proceedings ("Desmond's Law") and **SB 1128** An act of prohibiting the use of Accelerated Rehabilitation in the case of animal abuse.

I have a dog named Jorge. We adopted Jorge at 4 weeks of age, his mother was not interested in raising her puppies. I bottle fed my pup, woke up every 3 hours to make sure he went potty and fed him his puppy vitamins to make sure he would get all the proper nutrition he needed. Jorge is another family member. The thought of anyone hurting my pup or any animal, brings out the same reaction in me as the thought of someone hurting my children.

Cruelty to animals is a common denominator in the backgrounds of many serial killers and rapists. There is a link between cruelty to animals and violence toward people, mainly children and the elderly. Do we want these people on our streets? If an individual is capable of inflicting pain and injury on a defenseless animal they will not stop there. You must think, would you want this person caring for your child? How about your elderly parent in a nursing home? These people must be treated as the criminal they are. Animal abuse is the same as human abuse, they are both Abuse on a Living Being capable of feeling pain and suffering.

Individuals charged with cruelty to animals should be prosecuted just as an individual charged with child abuse or domestic violence. In turn, these poor victims need an advocate to tell their story, to keep them safe.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support these important pieces of legislation.

Thank you,

Teresita Interian
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