

In Support of Bill No. 6725, An Act Concerning Animal-Assisted Services

To whom it may concern,

Even though I am a long time handler and member of a pet therapy "team", I am continually amazed at, and in awe of, the power of an animal to provide love, comfort, motivation and determination to individuals facing traumatic situations. I also believe adamantly that the handlers, and the teams, require intensive education regarding the role they assume in a crisis situation both for the benefit of the individuals in crisis and for the team.

It is critical, in my opinion, that well-meaning individuals become well-informed and knowledgeable assets in a crisis, and that they are able to perform their duties in a productive manner. Further, I believe those charged with developing strategies and deploying resources in crisis situations deserve to know that the animal assisted therapy teams have been trained, certified and registered by a national therapy organization. For these reasons, I am enthusiastically supportive of "An Act Concerning Animal-Assisted Therapy Services".

Rebecca Caldwell
11 Checkerberry Lane
Glastonbury, CT 06033