



HB 5707: AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN HIGHER EDUCATION FACILITIES THAT CONDUCT RESEARCH USING CATS OR DOGS TO OFFER SUCH CATS OR DOGS TO ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS PRIOR TO EUTHANIZING ANY SUCH CAT OR DOG.

Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis and Members of the Environment Committee,

The Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association recognizes the intention and spirit of HB05707. However, it is the CVMA's position that the legislation isn't necessary and may cause harm to rehoming programs that research institutions have established. The word rehoming is intentionally used here. Those individuals who work with these animals feel that they had a home with them and have a vested interest in placing these animals in new homes when their work is done. They are not homeless animals in need of rescue or adoption.

Further, animals must be placed in homes with owners who are aware of the challenges they will face with training for a new life in a new home. Someone who knows them well and cares about them is most knowledgeable about what situations are best suited for a successful adoption so that the animal does not end up in an overburdened shelter. It is also important to note there are animals that cannot be placed in new homes because it is in their best interest they be humanely euthanized.

The care of these animals in research facilities is highly regulated by the State and the USDA. They are in facilities licensed by the Department of Public Health and subject to random inspection. Rescue organizations are not subject to similar inspections.

Furthermore, to ensure compliance with such legislation government agencies would have to make a significant investment and verify that these animals are going to situations as carefully monitored as the research facilities from which they come.

We respectfully submit this testimony with the best interests of these animals who make great contributions to human and animal health and welfare in mind.

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