



CCM 2015 Testimony

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ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent 156 towns and cities, representing over 95 percent of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

SB 352, "An Act Concerning the Task Force on the Humane Treatment of Animals in Municipal Animal Shelters"

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 and Providing for the Proper Sheltering of Dogs"

I am Michael Freda, First Selectman of the town of North Haven, and a member of CCM. I also serve as the chairman of the Task Force for Humane Treatment of Animals in Municipal and Regional Shelters. SB 352 would enable the task force to continue for another year.

Connecticut has received national recognition for officially designating a "State Task Force on the Humane Treatment of Animals", and has developed collaborative working relationships with shelters, fosters, and organizations such as the Connecticut Humane Society and the Humane Society of the United States to continue to develop best practices.

The Task Force is currently reworking more accurate formulas to develop more precise live release rates, continuing to develop a best in class recommended volunteer program, developing a tracking system regarding animal abusers, continuing to develop a formalized Animal Control officer training program, and is in the process of inviting other national groups to speak regarding best practices in other states.

CCM *supports* this bill and encourages the committee to favorably report SB 352, to ensure the Task Force has adequate time to accomplish its goals, and continuing work to improve animal welfare across the state, and also position Connecticut as a national leader in finding forever homes for healthy and treatable animals.

I also *support* and encourage the committee to favorably report HB 5707, which would require state and private colleges that use cats or dogs in laboratory research or testing to offer such cats or dogs for adoption by animal rescue organizations after such testing and to establish standards for the provision of proper shelter to dogs. This bill would also help ensure the safety and well being of animals used for research.



If you have any questions, please contact Alexandra Beaudoin, Legislative Analyst of CCM at abeaudoin@ccm-ct.org or (860) 670-4021.