

~~Charming Club~~

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**From:** Adam Silver <teacher0731@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 07, 2015 7:02 PM  
**To:** INSTestimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Kupchick, Brenda  
**Subject:** Support HB 5361  
**Attachments:** IMG\_0266.JPG

Dear Honorable Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

As a pit bull-type owner, I wholeheartedly support HB 5361 which will end breed discrimination by insurance companies. Nine years ago, I rescued Kerry from the Norwalk Animal Shelter. Never having had a pit bull or pit bull type dog before, I did not know what I was getting myself into. It has nothing to do with Kerry, she has a wide smile that just melts your heart, is smart, loyal, and just an all-around terrific dog. What I did not realize that I was about to step into a controversy based on people judging her and others like her as "inherently vicious," "aggressive," and other misnomers such as an enormous, power-locking jaw that no one could pry open once she was feasting on her prey. I knew these allegations were false and had no validity, to me Kerry is just like every other dog. I then realized I had to become an advocate for her and her breed and I would use her as my ambassador. You see, Kerry loves being around people, and when I take her out in public, people are shocked to find out that she has some pit in her. I talk to these people and remind them that it is not the breed, but the owner that is to blame for any dog getting a bad rap, much like rottweilers and German Shepherds have experienced. I was elated when Connecticut cracked down on puppy mills, which are part of the problem, as some reckless breeders have bred these dogs to be aggressive, when by nature, they are like all other dogs- lovable, smart and loyal.

I also knew that more work needed to be done. Ending Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) is certainly one remedy, but so is insurance bias towards these dogs. Discrimination of any kind is always based on lies and fear, and that's exactly what insurance companies are doing to these wonderful pets. Like BSL, this bias doesn't address a true concern, rather it plays on the fear and ignorance of those who make such laws, or as in the case of insurance companies, using this same fear and ignorance to justify not covering homeowners and renters who have a pit bull or pit bull type dog. Or charging exorbitant rates. It is simply wrong and it must end. House Bill 5361 will address this egregious practice by insurance companies by ending this discrimination. It will also be a positive step in the direction of education the public at large that behavior of dogs is based on how the owner raises his or her dog, and not the breed. I hope all members will vote unanimously in support of HB 5361 and may it make its speedy way for Governor Malloy's signature.

Sincerely,  
Adam Silver  
71 Aiken St, Apt. Q5  
Norwalk, CT 06851

Attached is a copy of that pit bull type smile.

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