

Testimony Concerning House Bill 5361 *An Act Concerning the Use of the Breed of Dog as an Underwriting Factor for Homeowners and Tenants Insurance Policies.*

The Insurance and Real Estate Committee

February 9, 2015

Jennifer Evenski

I would like to thank the The Insurance and Real Estate Committee for the opportunity to express my support of Bill 5361 *An Act Concerning the Use of the Breed of Dog as an Underwriting Factor for Homeowners and Tenants Insurance Policies.*

I do not believe that Insurance Companies, Home Owners Associations and rentals should be allowed to discriminate against any breed of dog when determining homeowner's insurance cost or availability

I am a life-long animal lover, have a Master's Degree in Biology, background in Animal Behavior, 12 years experience as a veterinary technician, 9 years experience in animal rescue and live with my dogs and cats in my own home in Colchester CT. I support House Bill 5361 to end discrimination by insurance companies when concerning dog breed.

- *In all my experience, I've never had an issue with a "pit bull", Rottweiler, Mastiff, Doberman, German Shepherd or any other breed typically considered a "risk" by insurance companies.*
- *I believe that the behavior of an animal can be designated by responsible pet ownership and that no one should be limited to the breed of dog they are allowed to have in their homes.*
- *Dogs are an important part of our families and provide many benefits, including companionship, sense of responsibility, and in some cases, therapy to name a few*

I have worked in veterinary practices and animal shelters for years with many of the typically discriminated against breeds, and even in such extreme conditions, I have never been bitten, attacked, threatened or otherwise injured by any of these breeds. "Pit bulls" are in fact one of my favorite breeds of dogs – in my experience, they are very loving affectionate dogs that enjoy nothing more than to be pet or cuddled. They are also incredibly intelligent and easily trained.

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL AND END THE DISCRIMINATION BY INSURANCE COMPANIES.

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

Sincerely,
Jennifer L. Evenski
Colchester, CT