My name is Leslie Haller. I am a resident of New Preston, and a registered voter. I have been a Special Education teacher at the Glenholme School for 25 years. I have owned American Pit Bull Terriers for over 20 years. I got my first one when my son, now 26, was 2 1/2. That age child can be very rough on dogs, it was important that we got a breed that was good with children. Since that time I have participated in conformation showing, competitive weight pull, and I now compete in agility with my 2 APBT's. My oldest is also a therapy dog, and a familiar face among the students at Glenholme.

10 years ago, I wanted to relocate closer to my work. When I explored rental properties, I was disappointed when one of the primary rental property owners in the area told me that while he would gladly rent to me, having no issue with pit bulls, the insurer that covered all of his properties would drop him. I was able to find a house to rent, at a disproportionately high monthly rental, but other options were very limited.

When I sought renter's insurance, I was rejected by a series of insurers because of owning APBT's. I was fortunate to find State Farm, and switched my cars over to them as well. Even as the officer of two sanctioned clubs, the New England Pullers, and the American Pit Bull Terrier Club of New England, we dealt with an insurance company that was willing to insure the weight pull club, but not the APBTC of NE, although we explained that both held events open to over a 100 breeds.

Despite being an active and responsible citizen and dog owner, my life has been negatively impacted by the prejudiced policies of insurance companies. I appreciate your time and consideration.