

**Testimony Concerning [HB5361]
[THE INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE [February 9, 2015]
Sandra L. Marenholz**

I would like to thank the [THE INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE}for the opportunity to express my support of [HB5361 ***[AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF BREED OF DOG AS AN UNDERWRITING FACTOR FOR HOMEOWNERS AND TENANTS INSURANCE POLICIES.***

I have been an animal advocate for as long as I can remember. I have chosen to donate my time and money to help protect and insure the safety and welfare of ALL ANIMALS.

I quote Wikipedia " The term is often used loosely to describe dogs with similar physical characteristics, and the morphological (physical) variation amongst "bully breed" dogs makes it difficult for anyone, even experts, to visually identify them as distinct from "non-pit bulls".^{[6][7][8]} While mixed breed dogs are often labeled as "pit bulls" if they have certain physical characteristics such as a square shaped head or bulky body type,^[9] visual identification of mixed breed dogs is not recommended by the scholarly community.^[6]

Formal dog breeds often considered of the pit bull type include the Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, and American Pit Bull Terrier. The American Bulldog is also sometimes included.

My personal friend Charlotte Grasson DVM in Litchfield County has expressed to me with great sadness how many times she is requested by shelters to euthanize the Staffordshire Terrier as they are unadoptable because of the unwarranted reputation. She and I have both seen these puppies grow into beautiful and loving companions. My neighbors dog (non pitbull) viciously attacked our mailman and was ordered to be euthanized. Should the Shitzu be considered an underwriting factor?

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

Thank you,

Sandra L. Marenholz
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