

Dear Honorable CT State Legislators:

3/29/2015

My name is Christine Kiernan and I live in Uncasville, CT 06382. I am writing to you today asking you all to please SUPPORT HB 6187 AN ACT CONCERNING COURT PROCEEDINGS AND THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS. HB 6187 has so many positive benefits and will protect not only animals but innocent people as well along with providing unique opportunities for our law students to actually argue real cases with real victims in real courtroom setting environment if they choose to take advantage of this special opportunity. I fully SUPPORT HB 6187 for the following reasons.

First, this bill is VITAL as it will add an extra layer of protection for not only our precious animals but our children and innocent people who at some point may fall victim to someone who has begun their wrath of terror and torment abusing animals. It is a proven fact that the most serious egregious serial killers of our lifetime, all starting their reign of terror young and abusing innocent animals. They are narcissistic, sick, evil people and a grave danger to our society. They started abusing and killing animals and moved on to killing innocent, unsuspecting people and children in our schools. This is a grave concern for me as a mother of innocent children who attend school and will attend college. These monsters are out there and when an animal abuser is given Accelerated Rehabilitation as a punishment and the opportunity to have their criminal records wiped clean after their probation has been served, their dangerous past can no longer be traced using background checks and I cannot protect my children nor can any of you protect your children effectively should these people ever find our children or family members we love because all traces of these egregious acts will no longer be documented. We will be blind and I am not alright with that and it is a tremendous risk to the safety of innocent, unsuspecting people. No normal person would knowingly date a serial killer with a documented criminal record of animal abuse and torture. But, currently there is no law on the books in our great state of CT that allows each and every dangerous, egregious act on animals to remain documented and this is very dangerous vulnerable position to be in. As a mother, I want to know who my children are associating with and if there is any documented record of danger looming over the heads of the people they come into contact with. As parents and as legislators we cannot protect the innocent without these laws. Our society is changing and people are not being held accountable for acts of violence enough. A slap on the wrist which Accelerated Rehabilitation is, is not an acceptable punishment for horrific acts of violence on animals. It's not enough and it is dangerous because the penalty is not enough of a deterrent to make these animal abusers think twice before abusing an animal. It is escalating and our children are in danger because of it. Animal abuse is a RED FLAG of the potential of future violent behavior and 80% of school shooters started by abusing animals.

Second, HB 6187 would provide an amazing opportunity for law students who choose to take advantage of it to argue real cases with real victims with their attorney professors guiding them as the students work their way through law school. Yes these victims they would be defending are animals but these animals were alive and well at one time and now they wouldn't be alive in many cases but their lives and what happened to kill them or harm them still matters. Currently law students only get to argue mock cases which granted, are indeed real cases recorded in the law books, but the victims are just names on the paper and our best attorneys have a passion for the law and the people they defend or prosecute. The personal connection is missing. HB 6187 would give them real time personal connection and vested interest in defending their victims to the best of their ability in their quest for justice which is only a positive benefit for them to master as they learn the art of arguing their cases in the future. It is easier as human beings to connect on a personal level with real live scenarios and victims than it is to attach themselves to fictitious victims and cases. They will be using their hearts in these real cases and imagine what amazing compassionate attorneys our great state of CT will be creating by allowing something like this. It is very exciting and not being done anywhere in the world currently. This could put the great state of CT in a class all on its own for others to follow. We cannot have enough good attorneys who are truly passionate in defending and protecting the innocent. There is no financial cost to the state for any of this. The court proceedings will happen anyway which is already a cost to the state but adding law student attorneys will cost nothing extra. This is an invaluable tool to help these law students develop effective technique in their arguments helping them to master this craft and become the very best attorneys they can be. Further, there is no repercussion or law suit involved if the case doesn't have favorable outcome. Animals aren't going to sue anyone. Law students have a choice to participate in this opportunity and there is no repercussion should they choose not to.

In closing, I am asking for your help and support by SUPPORTING HB 6187. This is a win/win, no cost bill and desperately needed and it will make a positive difference for the people in our state and hopefully prompt other states and countries to follow suit and adopt their own version of HB 6187 into their own society benefiting their people, law students, and animals.

I thank you wholeheartedly for your time in reading this letter and thank you further for all your hard work, dedication, and effort doing all you can as legislator's to make and keep the great state of CT as great and safe as it can be for its people and animals. You are all greatly appreciated. I am happy to answer any of your questions and address any of your concerns at any time. My contact info is below.

Respectfully,

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