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From: Dorothy Rich <dorothyrich@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2015 8:01 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Please support bills HB 6187 and SB 1128

**Testimony Concerning HB 6187 An Act Concerning the Protection of Animals that are the Subject of Criminal Court Proceedings. ("Desmond's Law")
COMMITTEE on Judiciary, April 1, 2015**

**Dorothy J. Rich
Norwalk, CT**

Member of the Human Society of the U.S. and the A.S.P.C.A.

I would like to thank the Committee on Judiciary for the opportunity to express my support of HB 6187 An Act Concerning the Protection of Animals that are the Subject of Criminal Court Proceedings.

Animal abuse unfortunately is not uncommon, as I know from the appeals that I regularly receive from The Human Society of the U.S., the A.S.P.C.A., the North Shore Animal League, and other similar animal protection and shelter groups. As you may have already seen in your work, animals are sometimes abused as a form of emotional abuse of others, which then often leads to the abuse of human household members. Animal abuse needs to be treated as a serious crime in order to be stopped, both for the sake of the animals themselves, and to prevent the escalation to further violence. An advocate can speak to the gravity and seriousness of the crime when an animal is deliberately harmed, preventing the court from looking the other way because the victim is "only an animal". Therefore I am in support of HB 6187. Please provide your support to this measure as well.

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

Dorothy J Rich

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Norwalk, CT.

**Testimony Concerning SB 1128 An Act Prohibiting the use of Accelerated Rehabilitation in the Case of Animal Abuse
COMMITTEE on Judiciary, April 1, 2015**

**Dorothy J. Rich
Norwalk, CT**

Member of the Human Society of the U.S. and the A.S.P.C.A.

I would like to thank the Committee on Judiciary for the opportunity to express my support of SB 1128 An Act Prohibiting the use of Accelerated Rehabilitation in the Case of Animal Abuse.

As I noted above, animal abuse unfortunately is not uncommon, as can be heard in the news nearly every day. As you may have already seen in your work, animals are sometimes abused as a form of emotional abuse of others, which then often leads to the abuse of human household members. Animal abuse needs to be treated as a serious crime in order to be stopped, both for the sake of the animals themselves, and to prevent the escalation to further violence. From both a moral perspective and for the safety of society, deliberately harming an animal demands a more serious response than the "slap on the wrist" of accelerated rehabilitation. This is not a minor offense like property destruction or a traffic violation. In the case of animal abuse, the perpetrator has deliberately caused suffering in another, whether the animal alone, or the animal and those who love it. Therefore I am in support of SB 1128. Please provide your support to SB 1128 as well.

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

Dorothy J Rich

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Norwalk, CT.