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From: bachelles <bachelles@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 3:32 PM
To: INSTestimony
Cc: zRepresentative Bill Aman; intrpid05@aol.com
Subject: Karen and Frederick Bachelles letter of support for CT House Bill 5443

Importance: High

To the members of the Joint Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

My husband Frederick and I are life long residents of Connecticut. We have resided in and have kept dogs on our property in South Windsor for over 30 years.

Every dog we have owned has passed the American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test which is a 10-step test for dogs and their owners to demonstrate the dog's good manners. It includes making sure that dogs behave well when walking on a leash, sitting, staying and meeting a stranger.

Our homeowner's insurance policy is discounted through our affiliation with AKC.

Our registered Australian Shepherds compete and have won titles in conformation shows as well as all breed agility and obedience trials sanctioned by AKC, Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA) and the United Kennel Club (UKC). They are first and foremost beloved companions and family pets.

We frequently encounter "bully type" dogs while training and competing in obedience and agility. In addition we have competed at several UKC sanctioned conformation dog shows sponsored by the American Pit Bull Terrier Club of New England (APBTE).

Frederick and I believe there is no inherently dangerous dog breed or type and that irresponsible dog owners are much more likely to be the cause of problem dogs.

Dog breeds fall in and out of favor, and a breed currently considered problematic might not be thus considered in the future – for example, in the 1970s, German Shepherds and Doberman Pinschers were considered dangerous by some people, then negative perception shifted to the 'bully' breeds.

We believe that breed-specific insurance regulations are ineffective and discriminate against dog owners regardless of whether their dog is truly a problem.

House Bill 5443 protects responsible dog owners from this discrimination, while ensuring that all dog owners are held accountable for their pets, regardless of what breed they choose to own.

We urge your support of Non-Discriminatory House Bill 5443.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Bachelles