

**Testimony Concerning HB 5443**  
**AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF BREED OF DOG AS AN UNDERWRITING**  
**FACTOR FOR HOMEOWNERS AND TENTANTS INSURANCE POLICIES**  
**Felicia Connelly**

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to express my support of Bill HB 5443,  
AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF BREED OF DOG AS AN UNDERWRITING  
FACTOR FOR HOMEOWNERS AND TENTANTS INSURANCE POLICIES

I, along with my family, have been directly effected by breed restrictions with homeowners insurance. We have been trying to leave our current residence but have not been able to because prospective landlords claim that their homeowners insurance policies do not allow pitbulls. Our landlord has taken advantage of the situation by increasing our rent significantly to try to get us to leave and we have been forced to pay it because we have nowhere else to go, even after 2 years of constantly looking for an affordable apartment that accepts pitbulls. The alternative is "getting rid" of our beloved dog and family member, which would be absolutely heartbreaking to us. I support Bill HB 5443 so that changes will be made to eliminate the discrimination against select breeds of dogs, pitbulls included, for insurance purposes. This restriction is doing more harm than good and it must be eliminated. It has negatively effected myself, my family, and our dog, and we should not be discriminated against because of breed restrictions in the majority of homeowners and tenants insurance policies.

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

Thank you,

Felicia Connelly  
Naugatuck, CT