

**Testimony Concerning HB5443**  
**03/03/16**  
**PATRICIA ULIN**  
**President, Friends of the Bristol CT Animal Shelter Inc**

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

As a dog owner, foster and active volunteer at the Bristol Pound, I have a huge amount of contact with all breeds of dogs. I can assure you that breed is not a determining factor in whether a dog will bite. Any breed can react with a bite if they are afraid, hurt or have been badly trained or abused. It is irresponsible prejudice to allow insurance companies or anyone to cause dog owners extra expense simply due to their dog's breed. Over the course of time, people have suddenly decided to say a certain breed is bad – and then it passes and another breed is picked. It is all ignorance at the root. And choosing to malign pit bulls causes families who have wonderful loving dogs unnecessary grief. First of all , the definition of a "pit bull" is an issue. And we have had many pit bulls in the Pound and 99% of them are wonderful sweet dogs who go on to be wonderful pets.

Please pass this bill.

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

Thank you,

Patricia Ulin  
Bristol, CT