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From: Theodora DeBarbieri <pawprints713@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 9:20 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: Rep. Urban, Diana
Subject: HB 5344 AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS THAT ARE NEGLECTED OR TREATED CRUELLY.

**Testimony Concerning HB 5344
Judiciary Committee, February 24, 2016**

**Theodora DeBarbieri
Waterbury Animal Welfare Examiner (Examiner.com)
Executive Producer/Host: Pound Posse Presents (SKYE Cable XIII)**

I would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5344 AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS THAT ARE NEGLECTED OR TREATED CRUELLY.

As a journalist, animal rescuer and animal advocate, I see horrible things done to animals regularly. Too regularly. What I do not see is justice served on behalf of the innocent, voiceless victims. CT's animal cruelty laws and reporting requirements mean nothing unless serious violations are prosecuted. A November 2015 report by Connecticut's Office of Legislative Research shows that between 2005 and 2015, only 3500 cases were brought under the animal cruelty statute and of those cases a full 80% never made it to Court (47% not prosecuted (nolled) and 33% were dismissed).

The track record for justice in our state is dismal. The Desmonds of this world deserve to be protected and it is time for Connecticut to make sure that they are. Please support HB 5344 and all of the silent victims of abuse who suffer and even die without consequence.

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

Thank you,

Theodora DeBarbieri
Waterbury, CT