

Carroll, Rhonda

From: Kelligreyhound@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 5:14 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Testimony for 2/24 public hearing-- SUPPORT HB 5344 (support for animal victims)

Dear Co-Chair Coleman,

Co-Chair Tong,

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Please accept this as my testimony (for public hearing held on 2/24/16) in **SUPPORT of HB 5344**, An Act Concerning Support for Animals that are Neglected or Treated Cruelly.

I have been a homeowner since 1990, I vote, and this issue is important to me.

I support HB 5344 because:

- **Research has established strong links between violent behaviors toward humans and violent behaviors toward animals.**
- **Law enforcement agencies must take violence toward animals seriously, and prosecutions must be encouraged. A disturbing OLR report ([2015-R-0262](#)) found that **between 2005-15, 80% of animal cruelty offenses were either not prosecuted or dismissed.****

 - Having court advocates for animals would be done at no cost by enlisting volunteer representation for animals from rescue personnel, law students, and law firms.
 - Teaching humans to behave with kindness and respect toward animals will help to build a more humane society.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

MaryAnn Ellison

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