

Carroll, Rhonda

From: contactkathryn@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 1:54 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: SUPPORT of HB 5344

Dear Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Tong, and 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 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 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,
Kathryn Farnsworth
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