

**Testimony Concerning HB 5344**  
**Judiciary Committee, February 24, 2016**  
**Susan Lawlor**  
**Volunteer for Our Companions Animal Rescue**

I would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5344, Desmond's Law .

Being an animal lover, I can't imagine ever wanting to harm them. It is no surprise to learn that many serial killers started their horrific careers by abusing animals.

Serial killers Ted Bundy, Richard Chase, Carroll Edward Cole, Jeffrey Dahmer, Albert DeSalvo, Dennis Rader and Gary Ridgeway all committed animal cruelty crimes prior to their killing sprees. School shooters have also been linked to animal abuse. Prior to killing their classmates and teachers, all of the boys involved in these school shootings had performed acts of animal cruelty such as shooting dogs, setting cats on fire, blowing up cows, and killing other small animals: Pear, Mississippi, West Paducah, KY, Jonesboro, AR, Springfield, OR, Littleton, CO, Conyers, GA and San Diego, CA. <sup>1</sup>

Let's pass this law, not just for the sake of the innocent animals, but for the sake of humanity.

Albert Einstein said it best, "The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything"

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

Thank you,

Susan Lawlor  
Bolton, CT

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ncovaa.org/facts>