

**Carroll, Rhonda**

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**From:** Jack Lotko <johnlotko@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2016 10:39 AM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Cc:** zRepresentative Al Adinolfi; Michlin, Rebecca  
**Subject:** Testimony for Feb 24,2016: public hearing-- SUPPORT HB 5344 (Support for animals that are victims of cruelty)

Dear Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Tong, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Please find the following as my testimony for public hearing held tomorrow Feb 24<sup>th</sup> 2016.

IN SUPPORT of HB 5344 (An Act Concerning Support for Animals that are Neglected or Treated Cruelly)

As A father of an 10 year old I have firsthand witnessed the relationship between the way people treat animals and how they treat humans. The research is also clear that this relationship exists, especially as it related to violence. If the police are given the opportunity to treat violence against animals and prosecutors to treat these offenses with the seriousness they deserve it will provide us with a safer community, for not just the animals this law was written to protect, but also to provide us will better neighborhoods for our children to grow up in. I read that currently 80% of animal cruelty offenses were not prosecuted or dismissed ([here](#)). There seems to be no downside to this law since we can leverage volunteers from the community to provide the advocates needed.

Thanks you for considering my testimony.

Yours,

John Lotko III

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