

Carroll, Rhonda

From: MI Mcleod <michelemcleod92@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2016 8:15 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Testimony for 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 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 am a physician. I support HB 5344 because research has established strong links between violent behaviors toward humans and violent behaviors toward animals. The support and affirmation of you, our elected officials, is essential to enable law enforcement agencies to 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. Passage of HB 5344 would allow:

- Having court advocates for animals 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 in order to build a more humane society.

Thank you for your time and consideration. To paraphrase Gandhi, civilizations will be judged by the manner in which they treat the helpless and weak souls in their society. Please allow voices for souls unable to speak on their own behalf.

Yours truly,

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