

Carroll, Rhonda

From: lorifognicholson@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 12:33 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Testimony for 2/24 public hearing-- SUPPORT HB 5344

February 23, 2016

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

I support H.B.5344 AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS THAT ARE NEGLECTED OR TREATED CRUELLY.

The General Assembly has acknowledged that cruelty towards animals, is directly related to child abuse, and domestic violence. The passage of the **Cross Reporting bill**, now **Public Act 11-194**, confirms this position.

The passage of **Public Act No. 07-78** "**protective orders for pets**" further demonstrates that the legislature is aware of the complexity of the problem and the need for appropriate tools to protect the innocent.

As A CGA intern, I interviewed Lieutenant Howard Black of the Colorado Springs Police Department, also program director for DVERT. (Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team)

I asked him, **is animal cruelty linked to violence against persons and society in general? "Yes, it absolutely is."**

The passage of H.B. 5344 into law is a logical next step.

I respectfully ask that you consider supporting this bill.

Sincerely,

Lori Nicholson

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