

I write this email in passionate support of “Raised Bill 5140 An Act Concerning the Use of Therapy Animals to Comfort Children Testifying in Certain Criminal Prosecutions”. I am training my third therapy dog because I have seen the power that a trained dog can bring to people in crisis...the elderly, the child, the college student, the rehab patient, the person facing an emergency. And, I know that power first hand having experienced a ruptured brain aneurysm that disabled me and flipped my life on its head; and then six years later when I unexpectedly became a young widow. Each time something significant has happened in my life, a dog has given me comfort, a listening ear, perhaps a lick, definitely a determination to persevere. I believe, no, I know, the same will happen for children testifying in such a stressful situation. They deserve to be able to benefit from the presence of a trained therapy dog and handler. They deserve to receive the fortitude and unconditional love a dog will give them. They deserve to be able to give and receive some affection in a situation that is likely scary and intimidating....especially as a child.

If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Caldwell

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