

**Susan B. Linker, Chief Executive Officer, Our Companions Animal Rescue**

Volunteer and Advisory Board member of CT Votes for Animals

March 4, 2016

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB228 which would address proper shelter standards for dogs.

I have been in the field of animal welfare and protection for over 25 years and some of the most disturbing forms of animal neglect and cruelty are related from dogs being confined in small and inadequate shelters. At least once a month, I receive a distressed call from a member of the public who is heartbroken from watching a dog who has been confined in a small structure or shelter. They have called their Animal Control Office but are furious that they were not able to help the dog. This is because based on current law, Animal Control Officers must wait until the dog succumbs to the conditions and becomes in immediate dangers to intervene under the animal cruelty statute.

This bill would allow law enforcement to intervene to protect a dog under circumstances a person should reasonably know pose a risk to the dog's health or safety but that are not clearly addressed by the Connecticut cruelty law.

This bill also provides protections for dogs who are confined in adverse weather conditions and provides obvious but necessary guidelines about the structure of the shelter so it is able to protect animals and not endanger them.

I do hope you will support this important protection for dogs in our state. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan B. Linker", written in a cursive style.

Susan B. Linker, Bloomfield, CT 06002