



State of Connecticut

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COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Support Of **HB 5659, AN ACT CONCERNING THE VACCINATION OF ANIMALS** Public Health Committee

February 22, 2017

Dear Co-Chairs Somers, Gerratana, Steinberg, Ranking Member Srinivasan and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee:

Thank you for granting HB 5659, AN ACT CONCERNING THE VACCINATION OF ANIMALS, a public hearing as well as allowing me this time to testify in support of it. This is somewhat controversial, but I truly believe the time has come to have this discussion. When I get calls, emails, and letters from people who have watched their small dogs get sick after being over-vaccinated, with some even dying, it moves me to ask questions and look deeper. What this bill would do is give a veterinarian the option to follow his or her intuition and knowledge base when administering the rabies vaccine. It really is baffling to me to see protocol demanding a five pound Maltese receiving the same Rabies vaccine dosage as my 80 pound German Shepherd.

If nothing else, this needs a thorough discussion by this General Assembly. The dogs don't have a voice of their own, so that is why many of us endeavor to be their spokespersons and advocates.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.