



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB<sup>SM</sup>

**Stacey Ober, J.D.**  
Legislative Analyst  
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New England Region

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Dennis Bradley, Senate Chair  
The Honorable Maria Horn, House Chair  
Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3600  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

**RE: American Kennel Club Supports SB 123, An Act Increasing the Penalty for the Intentional Injury of a Police or Canine Search and Rescue Dog**

Dear Co-Chairs and Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security Members:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) was founded in 1884 and is a recognized and trusted expert in canine health, breeding, and training, and in promoting responsible dog ownership. Our non-profit organization represents over 5,100 dog clubs nationally, including 57 in Connecticut.

AKC values the contribution that all working, and detection dogs make to national security, and the extraordinary role that these dogs play in protecting the peace and security of individuals and communities. We honor the breeders, trainers, and handlers of these dogs, and support measures designed to protect the wellbeing and significant value of these highly-trained dogs.

Senate Bill 123 would deter harm to working dogs by increasing the penalties for the intentional injury or killing of police animals or dogs in volunteer canine search and rescue teams. As such, we are proud to support it.

Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached at (919) 816-3348 or [Stacey.Ober@akc.org](mailto:Stacey.Ober@akc.org).

Sincerely,

Stacey Ober, JD  
Legislative Analyst and Community Outreach Coordinator, New England  
AKC Government Relations

CC: Laurie Maulucci, Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners (CFDRDO)