

**Dear Members of the Committee,**

**Unfortunately, I was unable to get out of work in time to testify on H8217. Please accept electronically my testimony in favor of passage.**

**Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I am a member of Defenders of Animals and have been for the last 25 years. My name is Kim Casci-Palangio and I am from Riverside RI. I've testified for animal legislation many times in the past including the bill to ban greyhound racing in RI. I thank the general assembly for passing that very important legislation.**

**That ban stopped the inhumane treatment and loss of life of many greyhounds in RI. This was a huge step forward.**

**However, we need to close the loop. That legislation only provided relief of suffering to greyhounds in RI. When we allow Rhode Islanders to place gaming bets on greyhound racing taking place elsewhere in the country we continue to fund the inhumane treatment. We condone and feed the machine that causes pain and suffering to dogs.**

**Please close this loophole to stop funding the inhumane treatment and death of hundreds of dogs each year. Please vote in favor of this very important bill. Thank you.**

**Sincerely,**

**Kim Casci-Palangio**

**1 Cedarwood Drive**

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