

Defenders of animals, inc.

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House Bill No. 5040

February 10, 2021

House Judiciary Members
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Judiciary Committee Member:

On behalf of the members and board members of Defenders of Animals, Inc., I am respectfully requesting that you vote in favor of House Bill No. 5040, entitled , an Act relating to animals and animal husbandry—Animal Abuser registry Act introduced by Representative Corvese.

The proposed legislation would create the "animal abuser registry act" which would require all persons convicted of felonies involving animal abuse, to register with an online registry to be established and maintained by the department of public safety.

Outstanding programs have been operating in Tennessee and counties, such as Suffolk County in New York, Hillsborough Country in Florida and Cook County in Illinois and have set up localized animal offender registries. Other states such as Texas, Connecticut and Washington are setting up similar initiatives.

“Animal abuser registries are intended to alert the public to the presence of animal cruelty offenders in the community and to provide heightened scrutiny of individuals perceived to be at high risk of re-offense to animals or people beyond any period of incarceration, probation, or parole.”

In addition, “Studies have shown the connection of violence against people and animals. The registry would provide additional protection and awareness for the public.”

Very truly yours,

Dennis Tabella

Dennis Tabella
Director