

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

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In favor of House Bill H-8095

April 1, 2024

**House Judiciary Committee Members
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903**

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of our members, supporters, and board members, I am respectfully requesting your support for House Bill H-8095 by Representatives O'Brien, Craven, Finkelman, Solomon, McEntee, Serpa, Lima, Costantino, Voas, and Slater.

Our organization supports increasing the penalty for violations of the care of dogs statute to a minimum fine of one hundred dollars (\$100) and a maximum fine of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per violation.

Although the Rhode Island General Assembly has addressed the issue of tethering dogs and leaving them outside in dangerous weather and shelter conditions, we still need to address the issue of significant fines when it comes to abuse and neglect and not providing proper care and nutrition for dogs.

Please vote in favor of House Bill H-8095.

Sincerely,

Dennis Tabella
**Dennis Tabella
Director**