

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

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In Favor of House Bill H-6089

March 24, 2025

**House Judiciary Committee
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-6089 that was introduced by Representative O'Brien, and cosponsored by Representatives Dawson, Slater, Solomon, Casimiro, Kazarian, Alzate, Stewart, Baginski, and Biah.

Our organization believes that this legislation is important, and the imprisonment penalty should increase from two (2) to five (5) years for a subsequent conviction under § 4-1-9.

Dog fighting is a barbaric practice and leads to severe physical and emotional injuries, often leading to death or euthanasia. It creates a culture of violence and cruelty among participants.

Rhode Island needs to stiffen the penalties for this barbaric act and support H-6089.

Sincerely,

Dennis Tabella

**Dennis Tabella
Director**