

Testimony in Support to H5125: Domestic Abuse prevention

Barbara Walsh. 62 Frederick Street, Warwick, RI 02888

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To Chair Craven and the honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

It has been well known for the last 50 years that domestic violence offenders target all those who are viewed as vulnerable in their sphere of control. This includes pets as well as children and vulnerable adults, and it is well known that victims often stay with offenders when they cannot protect their pets. Pets are often abused due to rage/anger or in attempts to control the other family members. When pets are allowed to stay with adult victims of abuse, those victims are more likely to leave the offender. This bill not only protects the pet, but enables and facilitates the adult victims to leave abusive situations. Please support this bill and provide another reason to help victims to leave abusive situations.