

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

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In favor of House Bill No. 5669

April 22, 2025

**RI 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 asking this committee to support Bill H-5669 so that Rhode Island would include animal cruelty offenses to the domestic violence crimes committed by family or household members against another. Our organization is in full support of House Bill No. 5669 By Representative O'Brien.

Studies have clearly proven that there is a link to other forms of violence, including animal cruelty. It is, in fact, a warning sign that others living in the home are in danger.

There is a reason thirty-six states and D.C. have statutes allowing animals to be included in protective orders and why twelve states and DC mandate or permit child protection and social work officials to report suspected animal abuse.

Studies have shown that women in domestic violence shelters were eleven times more likely to report that their partner hurt or killed a pet.

Please vote in favor of passing this legislation so that the entire members of the House of Representatives have an opportunity to consider this important matter.

Yours sincerely

Dennis Tabella

**Dennis Tabella
Director**