

Testimony in support (with amendments) of H7487: Dogs

Barbara Walsh, 62 Frederick Street, Warwick, RI 02888

Date of Hearing: February 11, 2026

To: Chair McEntee and the Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee

Though I greatly support increasing the penalties for maiming, poisoning, or killing a dog, they should not apply to only licensed, collared dogs. These increased fines should apply to the actions taken by such an offender to any dog. Any offender can remove a collar without proof of such an action and thus would not be held liable for the subsequent injuries, poisoning or death they cause. Many dogs are not licensed, but their pain or suffering should not be less in the law. Changing the penalties in this bill is an opportunity to expand the animals covered by this law. Please do so. Thank you.