

# **DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.**

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February 8, 2026    **In Favor of H-7487**

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

Dear committee Members:

On behalf of the members and board members, I am respectfully requesting that you support House Bill H-7487, introduced by Representative Bennett.

Our organization is in full agreement with the intent of the legislation, namely, increasing the penalties for a second or subsequent offense as well as including Animal Control officers being authorized to enforce the provisions of 4-13-42 Care of Dogs.

The legislation, I believe, will reinforce compliance with animal welfare laws and discourage ongoing animal cruelty.

Very truly yours,  
*Dennis Tabella*  
Dennis Tabella  
Director