

## Dawn Huntley

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**From:** Jena Goodinson <jenagoodinson@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 8:15 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee; Sen. Urso, Lori  
**Subject:** Support for House Bill H7562 – Animal Cruelty and Neglect

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Dear Chairwoman Carol Hagan McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill H7562, relating to animal cruelty and neglect.

H7562 is critically important because it recognizes and affirms the authority of municipal Animal Control Officers to intervene when there is visible evidence of abandonment, neglect, or hazardous accumulation of animals. Under current law, this authority is largely limited to the RISPCA, creating delays and jurisdictional gaps that can leave animals suffering while agencies wait for proper authorization.

Animal Control Officers are often the first responders to situations involving neglect. They are trained, sworn officials tasked with protecting both public safety and animal welfare. Allowing them to lawfully take charge of and provide care for animals in clear cases of neglect ensures timely intervention, prevents prolonged suffering, and reduces the risk of situations escalating into medical emergencies or fatalities.

H7562 provides clarity, accountability, and humane consistency across municipalities. It strengthens enforcement without expanding authority recklessly and ensures animals are not left unprotected due to technical limitations in existing law.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support and advance House Bill H7562.

Sincerely,

Jena G

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