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From: Aimee Bear [mailto:aec_1217@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, May 08, 2015 10:45 PM

To: Representative Themis Klarides

Subject: Online Contact Form RE: Veterinary sales tax

Aimee Bear

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Veterinary sales tax

Taxes, Veterans, Senior Issues, Education, Budget

I am a concerned citizen who feels that the Finance Committee's proposal to impose a sales tax on veterinary services is unwise, and will ultimately harm the pocketbooks of working families and the health of the animals of our state.

As we all know, the provision of veterinary care relies on pet owner's discretionary income. Especially in these very trying economic times, any increase in the cost of veterinary care due to imposition of a sales tax, will inevitably lead to less veterinary care being sought by financially challenged animal owners, and as a result, less than optimal veterinary care for their pets. There is also a public health concern: Basic public health services such as Rabies immunizations and routine parasite screenings intended to protect public health, will be reduced due to increased overall cost.

As it stands today, just three other states collect sales tax on veterinary services. In contrast, 47 states have recognized the deleterious affect on animal welfare that a veterinary services sales tax would lead to. I urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to find another way to balance our state budget, and get Connecticut moving again. Let's not do it at the cost of animal health and animal owner's pocketbooks. Thank you.

This message was sent to Rep. Themis Klarides via Internet contact form.