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Legislators

I am a pit bull owner.

I am opposed to the legislation that you have proposed for pit bulls. If you believe that the only vicious breed is a pit bull, you are misinformed.

To single out this one breed is totally unacceptable and irresponsible on your part. Breed-specific legislation does not tackle the real causes of dog bites. It does not punish the irresponsible ownership practices that lead to dog bites and attacks. It is concerned with a dog's appearance, not the unsafe ownership practices that pose a threat to public safety.

ANY dog can become a problem for the public if the dog is allowed to run loose and is not supervised. The key word is responsible. Webster's definition of responsibility is: Being legally or ethically accountable for the welfare or care of another. To say "pit bull" dogs are dangerous does not address the real problem - irresponsible owners.

If your purpose is to protect public health and safety you have missed it by a mile. In order to protect public health and safety you must have legislation that deals with the owners of dangerous dogs and that means **all** dangerous dogs. If you were serious about public health and safety then a bite would be more than a misdemeanor offense. It is important to deal with the owners of those animals that are dangerous and to make them responsible as owners.

Dangerous dog legislation should properly be called dangerous dog owner legislation, because the focus of legislation should be on human (mis)behavior, not canine (mis)behavior. Humans ultimately determine what they want their dog to be like, where it will live, what kind of training and socialization it will have, and when and how it interacts with other people and animals.

Irresponsible dog owners have no problem moving on to another state or another breed when their current breed of choice gets banned or restricted.

Please stop this bill. You are affecting many responsible pit bull dog owners that have beautiful, well- adjusted dogs.