

Concerns for bill S1244
February 14, 2018

Good Afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Judiciary and Rules Committee.

My name is Wyoma Clouss, and I live at 4287 S Genoard Pl, Meridian, ID (Dist. 21)

I am a member of the Idaho Dog Coalition which includes kennel clubs and hunting dog clubs with approximately 400 members throughout the State. Our members organize more than 100 events throughout the year, involving more than 25,000 dogs, and generating more than \$10 million dollars for businesses within Idaho. The purpose of our Coalition is to advance and protect responsible dog ownership and the rights of dog owners through communication, education, and supporting sound public policy.

I am also an American Kennel Club licensed judge of all Terriers, all Toys, plus several Working breeds such as the Alaskan Malamute, the Siberian Husky, and the Samoyed. Which brings up a question – Those three breeds love the snow and the cold, they've been bred for a thousand years to live and work in cold and snow. This bill does not specify temperature, hot or cold, but a well meaning person might believe that a Husky shouldn't be in a vehicle when the temperature was freezing, and might sincerely believe the dog needed rescue, when in fact, he is quite comfortable in his warm, well insulated coat.

The question of the well intentioned "rescuer" must be considered, whether every "rescuer" can accurately determine if the dog is in distress, What if the "rescuer" now has a 200 lb Mastiff very upset that someone is beating on the window of his owner's vehicle?

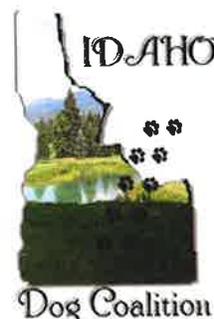
Which also brings up the issue of secondary liability. Is the 'rescuer' required to take the pet to the nearest veterinarian for treatment? Who gives permission for treatment? Who pays? Who is responsible if the "rescued" dog bites the rescuer, or a by-stander? What if the dog gets loose and is then injured or killed? Who pays for the damage to the vehicle, particularly if the "rescuer" was mistaken?

In a time when everyone has a cellphone, we believe it makes sense to require contacting law enforcement for advice before shattering that car window, instead of just if convenient.

We respect the efforts of Senator Nye with S1244. Certainly, there may be times that a pet, a dog, may need to be rescued from a vehicle. We understand the desire to make sure a pet is safe, but we believe there are more questions to be answered before considering this bill.

We hope you will consider us a resource on animal issues, particularly those involving dogs. Thank you for your consideration.

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Idaho Dog Coalition

*The Collective Voice of Idaho
Dog Clubs and Dog Owners
...advancing and protecting
responsible dog ownership*

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