



New Hampshire Sheriff's Association

* Belknap * Carroll * Cheshire * Coos * Grafton * Hillsborough * Merrimack * Rockingham * Strafford * Sullivan *

October 24, 2025

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maggie Goodlander
United States House of Representatives
223 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Pappas
United States House of Representatives
319 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Members of the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the New Hampshire Sheriffs' Association, I write as President to urge you to **co-sponsor and support the FIGHT Act (H.R. 3946 / S. 1454)**. This bipartisan legislation provides law enforcement with critical tools to combat those who organize, fund, and promote animal fighting — activities that are inseparably linked to other criminal and antisocial behavior.

Recent events underscore the urgency of this issue. In June 2024, **four puppies rescued from an alleged dogfighting operation in New Jersey** were transferred to a Dover shelter. These animals arrived with scars, untreated injuries, and severe emotional trauma. Shelter staff described their rehabilitation as requiring “a lot of extra time and patience” before they could even be considered for adoption.

This heartbreaking story is not an isolated case; it reflects a broader pattern of organized animal fighting that affects New Hampshire and beyond:

- **Animal fighting operations** exploit weak legal oversight to traffic animals across state lines and conceal gambling and other illicit activities.
- **Law enforcement agencies** often lack the federal tools needed to trace funding, intercept online promotion, or coordinate multi-jurisdictional enforcement.
- **Communities and shelters** bear the burden of rehabilitating victims and absorbing investigation costs.

The **FIGHT Act** would strengthen our ability to respond by:

- **Banning simulcasting and gambling** on animal fights in the U.S., regardless of broadcast origin.
- **Prohibiting the shipment of mature roosters** through the U.S. mail — closing a known loophole exploited by cockfighting operations (without affecting legitimate agricultural shipments of chicks).
- **Creating a citizen suit provision** to empower private individuals to assist in enforcing animal fighting laws, easing the strain on federal agencies.
- **Expanding forfeiture authority** to include real property used in the commission of animal fighting crimes, aligning enforcement with other organized crime tools.

This legislation is a **common sense, bipartisan measure** that enhances public safety, supports frontline law enforcement, and upholds the humane values our communities expect. The story of the Dover puppies reminds us that behind every case are living beings and communities that must heal from the cruelty inflicted by these crimes.

On behalf of Sheriffs serving every county in New Hampshire, I respectfully urge you to **cosponsor and advance the FIGHT Act**. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to justice, public safety, and compassion for both people and animals.

Respectfully,



William H. Wright

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 Belknap County Sheriff
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 Laconia, NH 03220

Sheriff William Wright – President
 Sheriff David Croft – Vice President
 Sheriff Kathryn Mone – Secretary
 Sheriff Domenic Richardi – Treasurer
 Sheriff Eliezer Rivera – Director

Sheriff Charles Massahos – Director
 Sheriff Keith Roberge – Director
 Sheriff Jill Myers – Director
 Sheriff Jason Almstrom – Director
 Sheriff Brian Newcomb