

Dear Honorable MI Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to implore you to oppose SB 741. Outlawing BSL will cause a serious threat to public safety. Tying the hands of local municipalities to enact their own safety standards is severe. You should be aware that Pit Bull attacks on people and pets are escalating across the USA. Michigan has had numerous serious maulings and even fatalities reported in the news. In the interest of public safety, for the safety of our families, including our pets, and our neighborhoods, please oppose SB 741.

I hope you will be contacting MI cities and townships that have enacted breed specific ordinances for their input on SB 741. Shouldn't it be up to the individual cities and townships to decide if Breed Specific Legislation is important to keep their citizens safe and whether it is affordable and enforceable for their jurisdictions? Please contact these MI cities before moving forward with this bill. Thank you.

<https://www.dogsbite.org/legislating-dangerous-dogs-michigan.php>

The purpose of a breed specific ordinance is not to prevent dog bites, but to prevent maulings. Bites require band-aids or a few stitches; maulings require amputation, reconstructive surgeries, rehabilitation therapy, and possibly caskets. Supporting breed specific legislation increases public safety, decreases pit bull breeding and decreases the high number of pit bulls turned into shelters and being euthanized.

There is well over 100 years of settled constitutional law that gives local officials wide authority to regulate dogs for the protection of its citizens. Cities and townships should maintain the authority to regulate dangerous breeds that have a history of attacking in their city or town. Animal control policies should always remain in the hands of local officials, not issued by the State. Such policies have historically been under the authority of local control because the variances among cities -- geography, animal populations and more - - vary enormously.

This site list cities that are reporting successful Breed Specific Legislation:

<http://blog.dogsbite.org/2010/06/cities-with-successful-pit-bull-laws.html>

Pit bull bans caused murders, rapes and robberies to drop 45%:

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/01/lan-casters-dog-ordinance-is-cited-in-helping-to-drive-down-gang-crime.html>

This is my second year contacting MI senators. It has been disappointing that you don't care more about public safety, the safety of our children having to live in the same neighborhoods with these potentially dangerous dogs. Do you really want to live by people who own these types of dogs that can and do maul or kill routinely? I know I don't.

I am a dog lover and owner of multiple dogs. I've had 35 years of experience with animals of all kinds (animal control officer, shelter/rescue management, dog training, veterinary tech, pet sitting business owner). I know any dog can bite,

but I have seen and experienced the unpredictable, explosive aggression of pit bull type dogs. These dogs were bred for hundreds of years to attack and kill other dogs. It is a genetically inbred trait. Pit bulls do not have to be trained to fight. When a pit bull attacks another pet or a person, it is because of genetics, not because of how it was raised or trained. No one can rehabilitate genetics. Some are nice dogs that may never attack, but no one can predict with any accuracy which well raised pet pit bulls will suddenly attack and which will not. Serious pit bull attacks happen daily. 50% of pit bull attacks are on the dog's owner or owner's children. 39 people were killed by pit bulls in 2017! Hundreds more were severely disfigured. Over 30,000 beloved pets were killed by pit bulls. Thousands more were maimed.

The medical community warns that children and pit bulls should not interact. Dr. Michael S. Golinko, who completed the largest dog bite study to date, states pit bulls are a danger to children: <http://nationalpitbullvictimawareness.org/expert-opinions/> Website:

<http://www.archildrens.org/find-a-doctor/find-a-doctor?id=269>

NEW WARNING from Pediatricians about pit bull type dogs that should be shared with all families:

The medical community is saying it's better to be safe than sorry and to keep pit bull type-dogs away from children. "A University of Arkansas for Medical Science's largest dog bite study to date at a Georgia hospital in July 2016 came to this conclusion: "The study corroborates the largely negative interactions between pit bulls and children of any age."

From the abstract: "Pit bull bites were implicated in half of all surgeries performed and over 2.5 times as likely to bite in multiple anatomic locations as compared to other breeds.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/305270428_Characteristics_of_1616_Consecutive_Dog_Bite_Injuries_at_a_Single_Institution

11 PEER-REVIEWED Medical Studies that prove pit bull type-dogs are dangerous. Level 1 trauma

center dog bite studies from all geographical regions in the U.S. are reporting a higher prevalence of pit bull type dogs injuries than all other breeds of dogs. In many cases, the studies (2009 to 2016) also report that pit bull injuries have a higher severity of injury and require a greater number of operative interventions.

<http://blog.dogsbite.org/2016/10/report-level-1-trauma-dog-bite-studies-pitbull-highest-prevalence.html>

The University of Texas, San Antonio study conclusions: "The unacceptable actuarial risk associated with certain breeds of dogs (specifically, pit bulls) must be addressed. These breeds should be regulated in the same way in which other dangerous species, such as leopards, are regulated. Individual municipalities need the power to enact ordinances that can protect their citizens from this risk. If they are to obtain such power, the issue must be addressed at the local, county, and state legislative levels."

<http://blog.dogsbite.org/2011/05/texas-doctors-produce-study-mortality.html>

Please watch this 44 minute investigation that presents both sides of the argument. Ledy Vankavage, animal rights lawyer for Best Friends Animal Society vs. Pit Bull Victims. Please watch to get a better understanding how the shelter/rescue systems are asking parents to play Russian Roulette with their children. <http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1053062723713>

Most dog breeds bite and release. Pit bulls bite and do not let go until their victims are dead. This is part of their genetic code called their 'gameness' trait.

"The dog is extremely dangerous and mutilates. The dog is simply not safe around people. I recommend euthanasia because the quality of life is so poor for dogs that have to live out their lives in solitary confinement." This dog bite level 1-6 chart is an useful tool at dangerous dog hearings. <http://apdt.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/ian-dunbar-dog-bite-scale.pdf>

An estimated 300 U.S. military bases ban pit bulls. There are 1,052 U.S. cities and 50 countries which enact breed specific ordinances because pit bull type-dogs present an unreasonable risk to health and public safety.

<https://www.scribd.com/doc/56495216/Estimated-U-S-Cities-Counties-States-and-Military-Facilities-with-Breed-Specific-Pit-Bull-Laws>

All dog breeds are human-made creations, the result of unnatural selection to achieve desired traits/ characteristics for certain tasks. They're individuals, yes, but you should always expect for them to display those characteristics. Pit bulls have been bred for violent blood sports with a deadly bite. They are not safe or appropriate pets and should never be considered as such.

Here is an incident list of shelters who re-homed dangerous pit bulls that attacked:

<http://safetybeforebulldogs.blogspot.com/2014/05/list-of-pit-bulls-recently-adopted-from.html?m=1>

Yes, are nice pit bulls. The problem is that no one can predict with any accuracy which will remain

docile and which will exhibit unpredictable explosive aggression and kill a person or another pet. Pit-bull type dogs are responsible for 95% of severe attacks (level 4-6 bites) on people, pets and livestock in breed neutral zones. Please follow dog attacks for one month. You will be shocked at all the people and pets that are severely maimed or killed by pit bulls.

<http://www.nationalpitbullvictimawareness.org/>

Please spend some time witnessing to the victims of pit bull attacks. Most attacking pit bulls are not due to bad owners but naïve owners who do not understand the dangerous pit bull breed traits.

From 2005-2017, 280 people have been killed by pit bull type- dogs. <http://www.dogsbite.org/dog-bite-statistics-fatalities.php>

I forwarded four photos of children who, through no fault of their own, were attacked by pit bulls. The parents have deep regret ever allowing their children around pit bulls that they considered safe. These are just a few examples out of thousands.

1) Little girl's face destroyed by the neighbor's pit bull. Video of pit bull:

<http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/20170329/child-mother-mauled-by-pit-bull-photos> and
<https://www.gofundme.com/evj94r-help-for-Zoey>

2) Boy's face is destroyed by adopted pit-bull.

<http://blog.dogsbite.org/2017/03/newly-adopted-pit-bull-mix-attacks-boys-face-in-iowa.html>

3) Michigan: Maybe you have a safe pit bull but how if your neighbor does not? Little girl almost killed by the neighbor's pit bull. Besides being scalped by the neighbor's pit bull in her own yard, she has lost both ears, an eye, and will never grow hair. <http://www.abc57.com/news/fundraising-page-set-up-for-girl-brutally-attacked-by-pit-bull>

4) After reading this, will you allow your kids to sleepover with another family's pit bull? Friend's pit bull attacked him while sleeping. "They did a CT scan and said the bite was so bad that it was a hair away from crushing his skull and killing him."

<http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/crime-and->

cours/gofundme-launched-for-hobart-boy-mauled-by-dog/article_220bafca-d5f6-58a7-8051-080b6d357029.html

Red Flag: MOST insurance companies have come to the same conclusion and do not cover pit-bulls because they can't afford the risk. Insurance companies have a calculated actuarial risk of pit bulls of a lot higher compared with other dogs. Pit bulls are more likely to attack their owners. Dog attacks are the third most common claim on homeowner's insurance. More evidence that people who have pit-bulls and certain other types of breeds are endangering people and other people's beloved pets in our communities.

<https://www.esurance.com/info/homeowners/does-homeowners-insurance-cover-pit-bulls>

Two words to prove pit bull type dogs are inherently dangerous a breed specific tool: "BREAK STICK".

Does this sound like a normal and safe dog breed to have live in our neighborhoods? Pit Bull Rescue Central recommends ALL pit bull owners

to have a "break stick", a wedge-shaped piece of wood used to pry open a pit bull's jaw during an attack. "Since pit bulls have a strong fighting background, we recommend that pet owners also have a breaking stick as a precaution." <http://blog.dogsbite.org/2008/09/break-sticks-tool-used-to-pry-open-pit.html>

This person demonstrates how to use a break stick on a pit-bull:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfMVH4wY5Pg>

Pit bull type-dogs kill an estimate 30,000 animals a year.

<http://www.animals24-7.org/2017/01/11/record-32550-pit-bulls-killed-or-badly-injured-other-animals-in-the-u-s-in-2016/>

Pit Bull Rescue Central, the leading authority on pit bull-type dogs, admits most pit bull-types are not safe around other people's dogs because of their genetics. Pit Bull Rescue Central states, "Pit bulls were bred to recognize other dogs as "prey". <http://www.pbrc.net/breakfight.html> For

that reason alone, I do not consider them safe family pets for our neighborhoods. These are powerful animals that break away from their guardians all the time and maul and kill another beloved pet or person, often in front of a child or pet owner.

This is a typical pit attack on another beloved pet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZTiGWgQu>

[bA](#) Too many children & adults have watched their beloved pets be mauled to death by pit bulls.

Many develop Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder after watching a horrific pit

attack: http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=684_1405
[912995](#)

According to Pit Bull Rescue Central, "It is a FACT that our pit bulls, AmStaffs and pit mixes come with a built-in fighting heritage. It doesn't matter where we get them from, whether it be the pound, a stray we pick up, or a puppy we buy from a breeder. The majority of pit bulls will, at some point in their lives, exhibit some degree of dog-on-dog aggression. Yet, chances are that a "normal" pit bull will not share his affection with

other animals. We cannot predict when or where it will happen and we can't love, train or socialize it out of the dog. Pit bulls may not start fights, but they will finish them." http://www.pbrc.net/misc/PBRC_dogpark.pdf

Dogs can be great escape artists. When pit bulls get loose it can be dangerous and deadly for everyone in the neighborhood. Child Killed in Pit Bull Attack On Way To School. Two other children were injured: a little girl face was totally dismembered and the other child was evaluated and released. Breed Choice Matters for keeping our communities safe.

<http://blog.dogsbite.org/2017/01/dog-bite-fatality-pit-bulls-kill-child-atlanta.html>

Why should public safety depend on how someone raises their dog? There are irresponsible owners of poodles, beagles, greyhounds or any other of 300 dog breeds that will not lead to severely maimed or dead neighbors, pets and children. It shouldn't be a death sentence for any of us to depend on all pit owners to raise their pit

bull right. That's impossible. If you think it's how they are raised or trained, then they should be regulated or banned.

PIT BULL EXPERTS:

Tia Torres, who has a T.V. show on Animal Planet called "Pit Bulls & Parolees", wrote this for Rescue Train. "It's a mistake to think the fighting gene can be easily trained or loved out of a pit-bull."

http://www.therescuetrain.org/pit_bull_education.php

Pit Bull Federation of South Africa - PBFSA': "Pit bulls were never designed to be 100% safe with other animals."

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2134509080109275&id=1622413151318873

Why they think it's appropriate to rehome pit bulls after saying that is beyond me. Owning and adopting out predators of other people's beloved pets compromises public safety. In my opinion is immoral. http://www.therescuetrain.org/pit_bull_education.php

A Propensity to Attack Other Dogs Means a Dog Is Dangerous to People. Approximately one-third of Mr. Phillips' cases started out as a dog attacking another dog, and then turned into a dog attacking a person. <https://dogbitelaw.com/vicious-dogs/a-propensity-to-attack-other-dogs-means-a-dog-is-dangerous-to-people>

BENJAMIN HART, professor emeritus at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and animal behaviorist, "It's quite common for a pit bull to show no signs of aggression. People will call it a nice dog, a sweet dog, even the neighbors - and then all of a sudden something triggers the dog, and it attacks a human in a characteristic way of biting and hanging on until a lot of damage is done. Hart said pit bulls are responsible for about 60 percent of dog attack fatalities each year, which is "way out of proportion" compared with other breeds. Pit bulls make up less than 5 percent of the American dog population. "It's very poor policy to allow any child around a pit bull, in my mind, let alone climb on a dog." More info from pit bull experts:

<http://thetruthaboutpitbulls.blogspot.com/2012/10/no-one-can-be-great-thinker-who-does.html?m=>

Most dogs warn you before they attack, growling or barking to indicate their anger—"so they don't have to fight," ASPCA adviser and animal geneticist Stephen Zawistowski stresses. Not the pit bull, which attacks without warning. Most dogs, too, will bow to signal that they want to frolic. Again, not the pit bull, which may follow an apparently playful bow with a lethal assault. More information from experts about pit bull traits: http://www.city-journal.org/html/9_2_scared_of_pit.html

I forwarded a photo of a pit bull mauling on a little boy's arm. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/child-hospitalized-after-being-attacked-by-neighbors-pit-bull/ar-BBHqflC> I agree all dogs can bite. The issue with pit bulls is the degree of damage they inflict, and their attacks being more likely to result in fatality. Appellate courts across the United States have recognized the dangers of the pit bull breed for over 25-years. We've listed excerpts from court decisions that

demonstrate this.

<http://www.dogsbite.org/legislating-dangerous-dogs-appellate-court-decisions.php>

Please put the safety of our communities first by opposing SB 741.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter,

Ann Marie Rogers
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Oakland County Precinct Delegate, 8th District

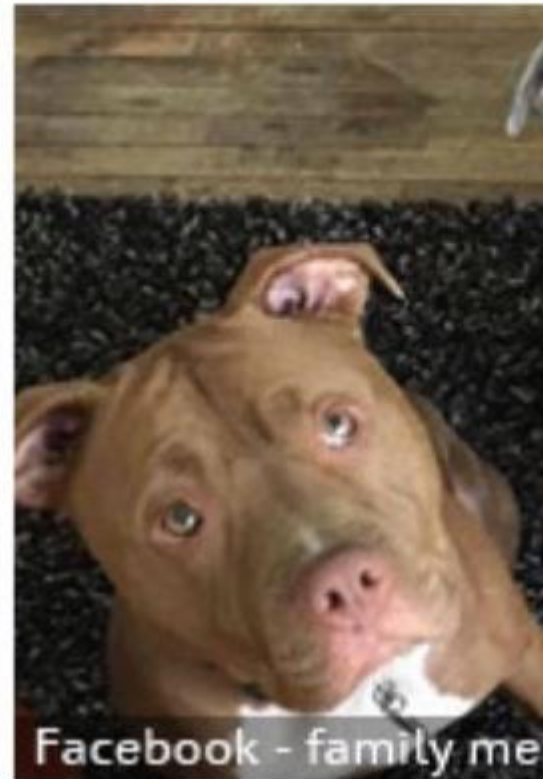
Supporter of National Pit Bull Victim Awareness

Dogsbite.org

Daxtonsfriends.com

SUSANNAH MURRAY - Grand Rapids, Michigan

PHOTO OF THE FATALLY ATTACKING FAMILY PIT BULL (CE



See: [Summary](#) | [Full blog post](#) | 📍 S

3-weeks old, was mauled to death a

[alone with three pit bulls](#) in Grand F

The baby was left alone in a bounc

five minutes. When one of the adult

found her bloody with severe head



**ARIAL HARRISON ALMOST KILLED
BY THE NEIGHBOR'S PIT BULL. BESIDES
BEING SCALPED BY THE NEIGHBOR'S
PIT BULL IN HER OWN YARD, SHE HAS
LOST BOTH EARS AND WILL NEVER GROW HAIR**