

**S. B. No. 1061 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING AN INCREASE IN AID FOR
VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS**

February 13, 2006

**Testimony by Patricia Stewart, Manager of the Yale Animal Resources Center,
Yale University School of Medicine**

It gives me great pleasure to be here today. I am here representing these young people as their potential employer. My name is Patricia Stewart and I am the Manager of the Yale Animal Resources Center at the Yale University School of Medicine. One of the functions of my position is hiring new staff. Since 1998 I have actively recruited the graduates of Vocational Agricultural programs from Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury, Trumbull High School, Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford, Southington High School, New Haven Sound School and Middletown High School. To date, I have hired 38 employees. Once they are hired and trained, we are able to offer an exciting and challenging opportunity to work with animals in the field of bio-medical research. I am truly impressed with the education that these students receive. They come to us fully prepared to take on the challenges of the job. They have been taught the skills necessary to work in the field of animal science and they come to us with a strong work ethic. Because of my belief in the program, I have become personally involved and serve in an advisory capacity for curriculum development of laboratory animal science. Each year I participate in the State FFA convention and serve as a judge for one of the many competitions. Most recently, in October of 2006, I attended the week long FFA convention in Indianapolis IN. It is a moving experience to see the poise and confidence these young people display- all 50,000 of them and all in their official blue corduroy

jackets. These characteristics of poise and confidence are not innate, they have been taught. I believe so strongly in this program because I have witnessed the results first hand. I am here to encourage the Committee to support Bill #1061 to increase funding for Agri-science programs. These students and their futures are depending on it. Thank you very much.