

March 9, 2009

**Testimony of Ashley Crane and Jasmine Caruk in Support of House Bill 6565, An Act Concerning Humane Education**

Dear Representative Fleischmann, Senator Gaffey and members of the Education Committee:

I could make a long list of things I would rather do than dissect an animal and take away the life of someone so innocent. (Included on this list would be memorizing the dictionary, watching "The Exorcist," and drinking rotten milk.) Furthermore, I strongly feel that all students should have the option whether or not they want to commit such a crime, and should not be penalized if they choose otherwise. After all, why should you earn a lower grade for being a caring individual?

Why is dissection even necessary to begin with? There are numerous alternatives to this disgusting study. For instance, students can explore the science of biology through the interactive CD "The Digital Frog". Other simulations include "DryLab Suite", "DissectionWorks", "Body Works", "Sniffy the Virtual Rat", "CatLab", "Great American Bullfrog" and "Biology Chart Series". With all these alternatives, the student is provided with all the possible information that would be represented during a cruel dissection. Not only can it be avoided, but also most students object to it. As an example, many students are highly discomforted in having to witness the internal organs of an innocent animal. Such as Ashley Curtis of Minnesota, who said, "I don't think any animals should go through any suffering for education." Another caring student, Laurie Wolff of Las Vegas exclaimed, "You don't learn anything about an animal by cutting it up. It's a waste when there are so many other ways to learn about science without having to kill something first." Jennifer Watson of Baltimore even fought against it, "I've loved animals my whole life. I was standing up for what I believe in." But what is so cruel about dissection? To begin, during a PETA investigation, a truly barbaric scene occurred. Workers were witnessed disregarding the Animal Welfare Act injecting animals with formaldehyde. This substance causes a painful death and is extremely irritating. To add, workers were spitting on cats and rats that were struggling during the injections. Although, the most vulgar act caught on camera was when a half dead rabbit amazingly survived and was determinedly trying to escape from a wheelbarrow of dead rabbits when he was brutally grabbed by a worker. The other workers nearly died laughing as this first worker drowned the poor rabbit.

For these reasons I feel it is necessary that students be given the choice not to attend dissections, and that they are not punished for standing up for their beliefs. When abolitionists stood up for slavery many years ago, people were aggravated. Over time, the people learned their mistake and opened up their minds. That situation is just like this one. But why wait? Why don't we just open up our minds now?

Sincerely,

Ashley Crane  
31 Old Farm Rd  
South Windsor, CT 06074

Jasmine Caruk  
190 Old Farm Rd  
South Windsor, CT 06074