

Hi. I know you are all busy, so if you take the time to read this, thank you!

I graduated from CT high school in 1994. I wanted to be a vet, and I signed up for classes to get exposure to dissection. As long as I didn't think about what I was doing - I was ok. One day, I looked at my fetal pig for what it was, and I was never able to stomach dissecting again. I feel fortunate my teacher understood I just wasn't cut out for it, and allowed me to complete alternate projects to protect my gpa.

Over the years I have become more sensitive to animal rights, and support rescue groups, national groups striving for anti-cruelty law changes, and purchasing cruelty free. I am not a fanatic. There is absolutely a place for education, and dissection in the educational process. However, if a student has no desire to go into a field that would require such first hand knowledge, dissection will have little future value in his or her adult life.

The goal of high school should be to prepare students for the future with classes that teach life skills, or prepare the student to further their education in college. All budgets in the state are stretched right now. Dissection is expensive, doesn't teach life skills, and except for pre-med or pre-vet students - doesn't prepare students for college. Add in the religious and ethical objections many have to the practice - forcing students to dissect just doesn't make sense. Not financially, not ethically, and certainly, not with the increasingly diverse religious population in our schools.

Please vote to support HB 5423. It just makes sense.

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Please vote the logical choice and allow students to opt out of dissection. It just makes sense.