

83 Newgate Road  
East Granby, CT 06026

March 7, 2010

Education Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly

Dear Education Committee Members:

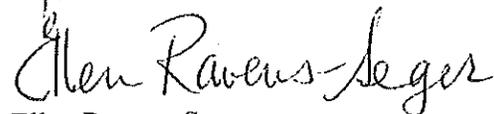
I would like to request that you support HB 5423 and dissection choice.

When my father died unexpectedly in the fall of 1982, I was a sophomore in high school, in the top 10% of my class. Because of his death, I missed a few days of school and as a consequence missed the dissection of a rat in Biology class and never had to make it up. I hadn't discussed it with anyone, but I was really distressed about the prospect of dissecting that rat. 28 years ago I was unaware that anyone besides myself might be ethically troubled and nauseated by that requirement and I certainly didn't think the teacher might allow me to make other arrangements—I just assumed my grade would suffer if I didn't do as the curriculum required. It's strange to think that despite dealing with my father's death, one of the things that still sticks in my mind is that I was so relieved that I didn't have to do that dissection.

I'm pleased to hear that HB 5423 is being considered and that if passed, Connecticut will encourage the integration of educationally-superior, humane learning methods in science curricula. Now that I am a parent, I am hopeful that this law will be in effect for my son so that when the time comes, he can learn about anatomy and get a good grade without having to go against his conscience.

Please vote in favor of An Act Concerning Dissection Choice (HB5423). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Ellen Ravens-Seger