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Testimony on Raised bill 6320 An Act Concerning the Inclusion of Humane Education in the Public School Curriculum

Hi,

I've worked at Manchester High school for the past 30 years and after talking and interacting with thousands of students, I see the need for Humane Ed. Children do not always learn respect for animals through their parents. Often, they just pick up myths that have been circulating for years about animals. For example, many children believe that dogs or cats should reproduce for health reasons or so that children can learn about animals by seeing a live animal birth. Another myth that is prevalent among teenagers is that animals are devoid of emotions. That a dog cannot experience fear of an upcoming event or that the dog cannot feel pain.

Once I followed a biology class where the assignment involved studying "Imprinting" where an animal will follow whoever is present when they are babies. They brought in a flock of baby ducks and paraded them down the hallway and to the cafeteria. Students were chasing them, surrounding them and scaring them. This incident was not taken seriously and was a bad example for students.

The suffering of animals should not be taken lightly and teaching respect for animals is a fine way to demonstrate kindness toward others. I also stress the connection of violence toward animals and violence toward other human beings. School bullying is still prevalent. I believe that Humane Education will have vast positive effects that will touch students in a productive way. Please support Raised bill 6320.

Thank you,
Karen Laski