

Dear Ms. Giannaros,

I write this testimony in support of dissection choice, as a parent of two students at South Windsor High School. Both of my children have refused dissection on ethical grounds. However, my son was forced to sit in while other students performed a dissection. It was a long time before he finally opened up and told me about it. He said he could not believe how the students changed during the dissection. It seemed to bring out the worst in them. They made fun of the animals and even made sexual jokes regarding the animals' genitalia. I believe our schools have a responsibility to teach respect for all life; dissection flies in the face of that. Any compassionate student wishing to opt out should be commended, not punished, and provided an alternative assignment. They should not be forced to sit in on the dissection. Since most medical schools no longer even require animal dissection, it certainly cannot be necessary for a high school education. Please, let's follow the lead of states like Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York, and respect students' ethics.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

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