

A Letter in Support of Bill HB5530

To Whom This May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of Bill HB5530 that would allow students in Connecticut to opt out of animal dissection and to complete course objectives in more humane ways. As a soon to be graduate of the University of Connecticut's Ecology and Evolutionary Biology program I feel that even at my level dissections are inappropriate. Students come from all different levels of experience which makes learning about physiology all the more complicated. I know firsthand that even more advanced biological concepts can be learned without dissection.

Dissection is not only unnecessary and cruel, but it creates unnecessary obstacles for students who genuinely wish to pursue careers in the life sciences. Many students who have the intelligence and the determination to succeed as scientists get discouraged by unreasonable demands that they harm animals in order to learn a particular lesson. From my field of experience the great part to science is that developing new techniques in order to better test hypotheses can yield far superior results and continues the advancement of the natural sciences. It is unfair to block whole academic fields to individuals who refuse to abandon their ethical convictions particularly when a wealth of superior learning methods already exists.

Sincerely,
-Julia Otero-