

**From:** supvmay192009@aol.com [mailto:supvmay192009@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 2:15 PM  
**To:** Giannaros, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB5530

February 17, 2011

Due to illness, I will be unable to attend the Public hearing scheduled on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 10:45 a.m. in Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT.

I wish however to comment: Students at all educational levels have objections to "cutting up animals for dissection. I as a student, (graduating class of 1968-Wilbur Cross High School in New Haven, CT). I strongly disagreed that this activity should be mandatory. I never participated. I was one of the lucky students who had a teacher that was sensitive to and respected my strong feelings on this issue. I was allowed to receive course credit doing other work. Both the National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers support dissection choice policies.

Modern Alternatives to dissection like computer programs, DVD's and models have been shown to teach anatomy and biology as well as (or better than dissection).

Fifteen states presently (including Massachusetts) Rhode Island, and New York - have laws or policies allowing students to opt out of dissection.

Alternatives to dissection save teachers and schools time and money (a huge concern); because they last for years and do not need to be re-ordered for each class. Cost conscious!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Susan P. Vessicchio  
66 Pope Street  
New Haven, CT 06512-3654  
Residence Tele. (203) 467-1532  
email: supvmay192009