

From: Tracy [mailto:egsbenn@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 6:04 PM
To: Giannaros, Elizabeth
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB5530

Please note these points and my personal point below, and support this measure:

- Students at all educational levels have objections to cutting up animals for dissection. Forcing these students to dissect dead animals can interfere with their ability to learn the required information, cause them psychological trauma, and even discourage them from pursuing careers in science.

- Both the National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers support dissection choice policies.

- Modern alternatives to dissection like computer programs, DVDs, and models have been shown to teach anatomy and biology as well as or better than dissection.

- Alternatives to dissection save teachers and schools time and money because they last for years and do not need to be re-ordered for each class.

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

I can relate to all of these. When I was in school, I made my lab partner do the dissecting because I thought it was horrific. The formaldehyde, a carcinogen, also made me ill. I think this association with what a lab would be discouraged my continuing in science, even though I won numerous awards in high school. Please make this motion a first step toward ELIMINATING dissection, since much better alternatives are available and make much more sense.

Sincerely,
Tracy Benedict
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