

**From:** Evie DeRosa [mailto:eviederosa@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 17, 2011 3:01 PM  
**To:** Giannaros, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB5530

Hello,

My name is Evie DeRosa and I am currently a sophomore at Naugatuck High School. I'm writing this to urge you to support HB 5530. As a high school student and being a huge supporter of animal rights, I do not agree with the dissection of animals. I personally care very much about my grades and I would not want my grade to be penalized if I decide to opt out of a dissection. There really are only two choices: either suck it up and do the dissection or take a failing grade. To me, that is just unfair and unjust due to there being plenty of alternatives to replace dissection. Times have changed and technology has come up with ways in which you can do a virtual dissection, watch DVDs or even observe animal models where you can learn just as well or even better than conducting an actual dissection. In fact, these alternatives can save teachers and school time and money for years since they do not have to constantly reorder supplies for every class.

Both the National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers support dissection choice policies. This is proof that it is not only students who want the choice to be given but also the teachers. Fifteen states, including the ones surrounding us, have laws and polices allowing students to opt out of dissection. Connecticut too should be on that list of states allowing alternatives to dissection. Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this. It has been greatly appreciated.