

February 19, 2013

Senator Edward Meyer, Co-Chair  
Representative Linda M. Gentile, Co-Chair  
Environment Committee  
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106



Dear Co-Chair Meyer, Co-Chair Gentile, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Yale University Animal Welfare Alliance, a 400-member student organization, I write to request that you amend HB 6317 to include a provision to ban veal and gestation crates in the state of Connecticut, as proposed by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

This amendment would ban two unacceptably cruel practices – the use of gestation crates for mother pigs and veal crates for young cows.

In “gestation crates,” pigs -- among the most highly intelligent and social creatures on earth -- are unable to turn around or fully extend their limbs. If they can lie down at all, they must push their legs, fragile from lack of use, through the bars into the neighboring crates. Veal calves raised in this way, too, spend their entire 16-week lives tethered around the neck in wooden crates so small they can hardly move. We flinch when we hear this. Such cruelty stands against one of the common values that our society most deeply treasures: treating animals with basic decency.

Gestation and veal crates are unnecessary. The nation’s largest veal producer has said publicly that they “do nothing more than subject a calf to stress, fear, physical harm and pain.” Today, cost-efficient group housing systems exist as more humane alternatives that better allow pigs to be pigs, and veal calves to be baby cows. There is no justification for the continued legality of cruel and inhumane gestation and veal crates.

The Yale Animal Welfare Alliance strongly supports Connecticut joining the nine other states that have already banned these unnecessarily cruel confinement systems by amending HB 6317 to include the proposed language of HB 5838 as proposed by the HSUS.

If you are on the fence about amending this bill as requested and would like to speak with a group of Yale undergraduates and Yale Law School students about why this legislation matters so much to us as Connecticut voters and residents, please do not hesitate to contact me. Our members are eager to do all they can to ban these cruel practices from our state -- now and for generations to come. We are counting on you to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Viveca Morris".

Viveca Morris  
Yale Animal Welfare Alliance, President  
Yale College Class of 2015  
Environmental Engineering and Environmental Studies  
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2/20/13

Hi Linda,

Here is another letter  
of support. I hope this is helpful.

Thank you,

Annie

Please let me know if there  
is anything else I can do!

Annie left  
this for you today. (2/20)  
-ERIC