

Dear Honorable Members of the Children's Committee,

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 6329, AAC Dissection Choice.

I vote, and this issue is important to me, as a citizen and a parent.

Children should be given the chance to opt out of dissection and perform an alternative assignment. Considering that the vast majority of medical schools no longer even use animal labs, classroom dissection seems like a terrible waste of life. It devalues life, and desensitizes our children, teaching them that life is disposable. With today's technology, students can learn the same lessons, but much more compassionately. There are dozens of computer programs available, and they are actually more cost effective as well.

Those who have been taught compassion for all beings are naturally more compassionate to fellow human beings. Students should certainly have the right to refuse dissection on ethical grounds, without any penalty. Alternatives should be provided to these students, and compassion should be rewarded, not punished.

It is time we join our neighboring states that have laws or policies to allow kids to opt-out, including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, Maine, Vermont, and New Jersey.

Thank you for your attention.

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