

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 6329: Dissection Choice

Dear Honorable Members of the Children Committee:

As a high school teacher in the Connecticut public school system, I would like to address the issue of dissection and student choice. Creating a more humane society begins with children. The practice of dissection often desensitizes young people to the suffering of other living things. Dissected animals are viewed as objects, and not as sentient, feeling beings. Unfortunately, I have personally observed callous and disrespectful behavior displayed by some students towards the animals used in dissection labs.

Many students are extremely passionate about this issue, which they regard as a question of morality. I am currently the faculty advisor for the Animal Welfare Group at East Lyme High School. When the group began three years ago, the first issue that my students chose to address was the elimination of dissection in certain biology classes. These students gathered several pages of student signatures on a petition against the practice of dissection at the high school. With this petition, they made a presentation to the science department regarding the cruelty of dissection and the effectiveness of alternative models and computer programs.

I have found that many students not only oppose dissection, but they also refuse to enroll in elective science courses because of the moral dilemma that this poses for them. Their avoidance of science is a great loss to society in general. What talent is being lost because these students refuse to engage in an activity that they feel is immoral and unnecessary? Even the National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers support dissection choice in schools. In this time of economic hardship, models and computer programs can be used indefinitely, thus saving the school system precious funds.

Our world is filled with enough pain and suffering. If we are to create a more compassionate future, we need to teach our young people that life is precious and must be respected. It is time to grant our children the same rights given to them by our neighbors in New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. They deserve the freedom of choice!

Please support HB 6329.

Thank you,

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