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The Honorable Susan Donovan, Chair  
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Welfare  
Room 135  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: H7234 – OPPOSE**

Chairman Donovan and Members of the Committee,

I am writing this testimony to strongly oppose House Bill H7234. I believe that I can provide a unique perspective regarding the importance of this procedural lab having completed it as a learner in 2016 and now serve as an instructor of the lab for the past four years. In my role as Associate Residency Program Director, I also have had numerous residents share their stories and experience with the lab.

You may be surprised to learn that I am also a practicing vegetarian. I have not eaten animal meat for the past twelve years because I believe our current food supply subjects animals to immense suffering and cruel conditions. Despite my strong beliefs against animal cruelty, I continue to instruct at this lab every year because I appreciate the value to our Rhode Island population.

This procedure lab saves the lives of Rhode Islanders. Just in the past few years, I can name multiple members of our community that were saved by physicians who trained in this lab – an elderly gentleman with a mass on his vocal cord, a woman who choked on her food while eating lunch, and a young man who severely injured his face after a fall. Each of the physicians who cared for these patients directly credited the procedure lab as the reason they were able to save these lives.

This bill does not prevent animal harm. Each year, we have fourteen learners who participate in the lab. The fourteen animals used each year are diverted from the food chain. They would otherwise be destined for a life of harsh conditions and slaughter. This bill is asking you to choose fourteen animals over the lives of Rhode Island people. I hope you can see that you should OPPOSE House Bill H7234.

Sincerely,



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