

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

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In Favor of H-7234

February 12, 2024

House Health & Human Services
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of our members and board members, I am respectfully requesting that you support House Bill No. 7234 by Serpa, Phillips, J. Brien, Solomon, Fellela, O'Brien, McEntee, Lima, Costantino.

The bill, if passed, would prohibit medical training programs from using live animals while teaching medical procedures if other accredited training programs are not using live animals or there are alternate methods that teach the lesson without the use of live animals.

There is no longer any justification to use live animals in medical schools. In fact, many leading medical schools, including Harvard, Yale, and Stanford, now use innovative, clinical teaching methods instead of animal laboratories. These innovative methods are available to all medical schools.

So why do some medical schools still use live animals? It is because grant money is available, and it comes down to financial considerations over humaneness. Rhode Island should not be in the business of encouraging animal cruelty when there is solid evidence that there are humane alternatives. Please vote in favor of H-7234.

Very truly yours,
Dennis Tabella
Dennis Tabella
Director