

February 8, 2024

**Testimony in Support of H 7234
Before the House Health and Human Services Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly**

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Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you. I'm Dr. Frank Faltus. I have practiced medicine in Rhode Island for 40 years. I'm a clinical assistant professor emeritus at Brown University. I've been trained in both internal medicine and psychiatry.

it is unfortunate that we have to use your time on this issue. But, where medical experts across the country agree, Brown and Rhode Island Hospital refuse to acknowledge the obvious. Medical simulators replicate human anatomy and physiology, and they are used by nearly every other emergency medicine residency in the U.S. to teach surgical airway and other procedures. Simulators even bleed and can be reset so the same trainee can practice over and over and over until they are proficient. In comparison, using live animals is a one-shot deal. The same animal is never the same anatomically after someone has used it.

Brown maintains that using live animals is superior. Logically, that would mean that all these other programs such as Harvard, Stanford, and Yale have consciously chosen to offer their residents an inferior mode of training. Obviously, this is not true. These simulators have been proven to be superior.

When I completed medical school, it was common to require medical students to practice procedures on live dogs and then kill the animals. We slowly realized that not only was using animals in that way unnecessary.

Brown is choosing for some reason to continue using an archaic method of training. It is time for Brown to stop using live animals and join its colleagues in the 21st century. This is about what is best to save patients' lives and increase the quality of medicine in Rhode Island.

I urge you to advance H 7234. Thank you for your time.