February 8, 2024

Hari Dandapani
161 Waterman St., Apt. 4
Providence, RI 02906

Testimony in Support of H 7234

Thank you for your time and consideration.

My name is Hari Dandapani. I am currently a medical student at Brown. I am here to voice my strong support for H 7234.

I was drawn to the field of medicine for two primary reasons: my desire to help others and a deep curiosity that compels me to understand the cutting-edge developments in science and medicine. These two interests also compel me to speak before you all today to stop the practice of exploiting animals for medical training.

Advancements in our understanding of surgery and technical proficiency have made obsolete and inferior the practice of training on animals. Emergency medicine programs affiliated with peer institutions like Columbia and Harvard recognize this, as they have developed robust surgical simulation programs with a wide variety of training opportunities for surgeons. Additionally, we know that animals are not perfect analogs for human anatomy. Pigs have much thicker and coarser skin, smaller limbs, different head and neck anatomy, and 13-17 pairs of ribs compared to 12 rib pairs for humans. These differences are critical when trying to apply medical procedures to human patients.

In addition to being scientifically outdated, it is also ethically dubious to cause harm and suffering to animals when we don't need to. And Brown students recognize this. As a Brown undergraduate, I led an effort to collect signatures from more than 500 students who oppose the unnecessary use of animals in the university's emergency medicine program.

With each passing year, Brown becomes part of an increasingly shrinking minority of schools that chooses to harm animals for medical training. I hope that you can recognize the need to protect animals while we advance medical progress with newer, more ethical technologies. I sincerely urge you to support this bill and advance it out of your committee.

Thank you for your time. Have a wonderful day.