

**Testimony of Ani Quigley in Opposition to Language in H 757 Pertaining to
Public Records About the Care and Use of Live Animals in Experiments at the
University of Vermont and State Colleges**

**Before the House Committee on Government Operations
February 27, 2014**

My name is Ani Quigley and I am a senior Global Studies major at the University of Vermont. I'm here to speak on behalf of my fellow students, and in my capacity as the president of the Vermont Students for Animal Protection, an SGA-approved club at my university.

As a student, I recognize that my tuition is helping to fund the research conducted on live animals at UVM, and so I wish to see how this money is being used. I am not alone in this feeling: in the past week, the Vermont Students for Animal Protection have been circulating a petition on this subject and have already collected nearly 500 signatures, and continue to collect more.

We have been met with an overwhelming strong reaction in support of increased transparency around live animal research at UVM from individual students, and from collective bodies. For example, this past Tuesday an article about the issue of transparency in animal research was published by one of our school papers. Additionally, the Student Government Association has passed a resolution in support of transparency in the IACUC and in support of access to its meetings and documents.

The student body at UVM wants to see greater transparency in experiments using live animals. Specifically, and in accordance with the Vermont Students for Animal Protection's petition language, we wish to have access to Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee meetings and to records related to animal care and use, including - but not limited to - veterinary care records and animal use protocols.

As such, H. 757 does not meet our needs. The language in this bill does not suffice to create the transparency that the student body wants, as it expressly exempts access to research protocols. Furthermore, other records that will truly show what is happening to animals used in experiments, records such as veterinary reports and daily care sheets, are not produced or acquired by the IACUC, and so this bill will not extend to cover access to these records.

As H. 757 does not meet our needs, I urge you to instead consider the language in a bill introduced by Senator Tim Ashe, S. 127, as this language will succeed in providing the increased transparency in live animal research that the student body desires.

Thank you for hearing my testimony, and I appreciate your time.

Respectfully submitted,

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