

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 08  
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004  
INTRODUCED BY  
Mimi Stewart

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL  
REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY VIRTUAL  
ANATOMY AS AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO ANIMAL DISSECTION TO  
FULFILL ACADEMIC CLASS REQUIREMENTS.

WHEREAS, anatomy is taught in New Mexico public schools as  
part of the science curriculum, and many anatomy classes  
require animal dissection as part of their course work; and

WHEREAS, many students oppose this harmful use of animals  
in the classroom on ethical and ecological grounds; and

WHEREAS, students who object to animal dissection and do  
not have the ability to learn via humane alternatives are often  
penalized by receiving a lower grade; and

WHEREAS, students in public schools should be able to  
exercise a choice in meeting academic class requirements with  
alternative methods to animal dissection; and

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1           WHEREAS, the use of humane alternatives provides students  
2 freedom to practice at their own pace, to learn by trial and  
3 error and to repeat procedures without the high costs  
4 associated with using real animals; and

5           WHEREAS, there are health risks to teachers and students  
6 through exposure to formaldehyde, a known carcinogen, during  
7 animal dissection; and

8           WHEREAS, animal dissection requires that millions of  
9 formaldehyde-soaked specimens be discarded, and the federal  
10 environmental protection agency has designated formaldehyde as  
11 a hazardous air pollutant, water pollutant and waste  
12 constituent, thereby posing a risk to the environment and  
13 public health; and

14           WHEREAS, there are four major loan libraries that  
15 currently provide schools with free alternatives to real animal  
16 dissection, allowing teachers to try out various alternatives  
17 before purchasing them for their schools; and

18           WHEREAS, virtual anatomy software, videos and models are  
19 often cheaper than the purchase of animals for a single year's  
20 practical courses and can be reused in subsequent years; and

21           WHEREAS, use of alternative methods is cost-effective and  
22 can save between two thousand seven hundred dollars (\$2,700)  
23 and nine thousand six hundred dollars (\$9,600) per classroom  
24 over a three-year period;

25           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department study  
2 the use of virtual anatomy as an acceptable alternative method  
3 of study; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study ensure that the  
5 academic class requirements requiring animal dissection can be  
6 fulfilled through virtual anatomy alternatives; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
8 transmitted to the public education department.

9 - 3 -

10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25