

California Students Deserve Better Science Education!

Support AB 1586

**Physicians
Committee**
for Responsible Medicine



SCIL
Social Compassion
in Legislation

PETA
People for the Ethical
Treatment of Animals



Animal dissection is antiquated, dangerous, and bad for the environment.

This bill will ensure California's K-12 students are taught important scientific concepts in a modern, safe, engaging, and humane way by ending the use of animal dissection statewide.

Key Points

- Modern science curricula and standards do not require or reference the use of animal dissection. The College Board (AP Biology), the International Baccalaureate, and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) make no mention of animal dissection. California science standards do not require dissection.
- Non-animal teaching methods include interactive computer programs, high-quality videos, and life-like models.
- Non-animal teaching methods have inherent educational advantages for science education, such as ease of use, customizability, and repetition for learning purposes.
- Non-animal teaching methods save time, cut costs, and improve student safety.
- Animals used for classroom dissection are preserved and shipped using various expensive, carcinogenic, and even fatal chemicals, such as formaldehyde. Formaldehyde is classified as a group 1 carcinogen and on the Proposition 65 list as a chemical that causes cancer and cannot be entirely eliminated through washing.
- Students experience superior educational outcomes using non-animal methods as compared to animal dissection.
- U.S. and Canadian medical schools no longer use live animals to teach medical students, and no U.S. medical schools expect or require students to have participated in animal dissection. Non-animal methods can better prepare students for higher learning and medical school.
- Animals killed for dissection do not die of natural causes. Many animals used for dissection are taken from the wild, which in turn decimates wild populations and disrupts ecosystems. The U.S. Department of the Interior has stated that declines in amphibian populations can be attributed in part to the use of amphibians in dissection.
- The official position of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) acknowledges the educational effectiveness of non-animal teaching methods and supports teachers' decisions to use them as complete replacements for animal dissection.



Find out more about dissection alternatives for students at:

<https://www.pcrm.org/news/good-science-digest/dissection-alternatives-students>