

Second Regular Session

Sixty-second General Assembly

LLS NO. R00-1129.01 Pam Cybyske

STATE OF COLORADO

BY REPRESENTATIVES Plant, and Grossman

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 00-1050

101 CONCERNING THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE OF CANINE LABORATORIES FOR
102 HUMAN MEDICAL INSTRUCTION IN STATE FUNDED COLLEGES AND
103 UNIVERSITIES.

1 WHEREAS, The use of live animals as a teaching tool for human
2 medical education is considered outdated, unnecessary, and costly; and

3 WHEREAS, Due to wide ranging differences in physiology and
4 anatomy, canine models are inappropriate for teaching human
5 physiological principles; and

6 WHEREAS, The Physician's Committee for Responsible
7 Medicine, a group of more than five thousand physicians nationwide, is
8 opposed to canine laboratories, calling them "outdated and unnecessary";
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Recognizing the inappropriate nature of using dogs
11 for human medical instruction, the majority of medical schools in the
12 United States, including top universities such as Yale, Stanford,
13 Columbia, and Johns Hopkins, have discontinued use of canine
14 laboratories; and

15 WHEREAS, These medical schools have instead chosen to adopt
16 the use of a combination of computer simulations and live surgical
17 observation in place of canine laboratories; and

18 WHEREAS, The University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
19 has been a leader in the development of human surgical simulators and
20 is currently marketing the use of such simulators from the Fitzsimmons
21 campus; and

22 WHEREAS, These computer simulations and surgical
23 observations are significantly cheaper to the taxpayer, with a \$3,817 one
24 time expense versus an ongoing \$25,000, or \$191 per student, annual
25 appropriation for the canine laboratories; and

1 WHEREAS, Thirty-two of the one hundred thirty-one first year
2 medical students at the University of Colorado Medical School this year
3 opted out of the canine laboratories, citing ethical as well as academic
4 reasons for their decisions; and

5 WHEREAS, A March 6, 2000, Denver Post reader survey found
6 that seventy-nine percent of Coloradans were opposed to the use of live
7 dogs in an academic laboratory; now, therefore,

8 *Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second*
9 *General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring*
10 *herein:*

11 That the People of the State of Colorado request that, as of January
12 1, 2001, colleges and universities in Colorado receiving public funds
13 discontinue the use of live canines in the teaching of human anatomy and
14 physiology.