

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to you as a concerned animal researcher in response to the proposed National Animal Welfare Bill presented by Senator Bartlett.

I reject the need to introduce this bill in the case of animal research. While I accept the need to promote humane, responsible and accountable care it is clear that these requirements are already being met sufficiently and very rigorously by existing State laws. The introduction of this bill would mean an excessive and over-burdening regulatory system.

Nonetheless, I would like to point out several issues I specifically have with this bill as it stands.

1. Point 64 (2) (e) states that it is cruel to use an electrical device on an animal

As this reads it is not very helpful as an ECG or ECC is an electrical device. The definition of electrical device is unclear.

2. Point 101 (1) Public notification of licences

It is unclear whether an individual researcher will have their name and address published. If the name and address are to be published then this is a highly dangerous act that could place the researcher in threat of their life from extreme activists. There is clear evidence from overseas that animal rights activists are extreme in their pursuit of their agenda to stop animal research despite the obvious human health benefits.

3. Point 106 Acquisition of animals for research

This stipulation is over-burdening and infeasible in some cases. For instance, I obtain *Xenopus* frogs for research either from South Africa or USA directly – these are the only source of these animals and to have these companies in a foreign country become licensed is impractical. Similarly, I obtain zebrafish (small fish that are used in home aquariums) from the local pet store. This is a cheap and effective way of obtaining these animals for behavioural and developmental studies. It is again an unnecessary imposition to have pet stores register for supply of fish. The outcome of this stipulation would be that the fish stores would stop supply and that researchers would have to find an alternative source. Considering the infrastructure is already in place to import fish through fish stores it is over-burdening to import directly from overseas (again companies would have to be licensed).

I can see that for supply of mice and rats it may be an advantage to have a

few suppliers who are registered to supply stock animals. However there are numerous exotic species and small animals that are not classic experimental models (i.e. used in great numbers that ensure a viable commercial enterprise). They are obtained from special suppliers and sources which would be difficult and not practical to expect to become licensed.

yours sincerely

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