

TESTIMONY

# Health & Safety • Pesticide Control

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March 21, 2024

**TESTIMONY: House Bill 7783**

Sponsor: Representative Rebecca Kislak

Bill Name: Health and Safety • Pesticide Control

Attention: Environment & Natural Resources Committee

Dear Committee,

My name is Andrea Feldman. I am a Providence resident. I am offering my strong support for S-2745, which would ban second generation anticoagulation rodenticides in Rhode Island.

The purpose of this letter is to highlight an outmoded and cruel practice — the use of anticoagulation rodenticides — that rarely has the intended effect. Rodents may, in fact, die because of these horrible poisons (and they will die painful, protracted deaths) — but many other animals may also be affected as the poison is carried from one creature to another, either through direct ingestion or secondary ingestion.

I walk a lot in Providence, and I see rodenticide boxes all over the city. Most large organizations, like universities and corporate offices, have them stationed all over, frequently in clusters.

I've seen rodents writhing in agony after ingesting poisons from these boxes, and I've also seen what happens when raptors and other birds ingest these poisons, either directly or indirectly, through the eating of prey. (It's gruesome.)

Non-target species affected can also include family pets — I just donated to a cat rescue that was caring for 3 orphaned kittens whose mother died from ingesting rat poison.

These deaths are particularly unnecessary when there are other safer, sustainable deterrents that don't have such a horrific ripple effect through the food chain.

In addition, these poisons are entering our soil and our water, further impacting our fragile ecosystems. I urge the council to support S-2745 to take action to ban second generation anti-coagulant rodenticides across Rhode Island.

Sincerely,  
Andrea Feldman

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