

January 31, 2024

House Judiciary Committee
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H.7056 - AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- FORCE-FED POULTRY PRODUCTS

I am writing in support of H.7056, the bill to ban the production and sale of foie gras in Rhode Island. As many esteemed animal advocacy groups and private citizens have previously testified, force-feeding another living creature is an act of violence, and a desecration of life on par with other formerly condoned practices which are now regarded as barbaric, such as blinding a bird or raising it in darkness, cutting off its talons, or nailing its webbed feet to the floor in order to restrict its movement and fatten it for slaughter. The only thing that separates these bygone assaults from the production of foie gras is the fact that the latter still occurs under the guise of fine dining.

Our state is a national leader in passing progressive animal welfare legislation. The Animal Legal Defense Fund ranks us fifth in the nation for the strength of our animal protection laws <<https://aldf.org/project/us-state-rankings/>>. Our federal legislators consistently earn top scores in the *Humane Scorecard of Congress* <<https://hslf.org/humane-scorecard>>, an annual report of the Humane Society Legislative Fund (HSLF), the lobbying affiliate of the Humane Society of the United States. I believe we need to sustain this momentum in building a more humane society for everyone, especially those who do not reap the benefits of human rights. Please support H.7056, and keep Rhode Island at the forefront of the humane movement.

Sincerely,

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