

Roberta DiMezza

From: David Brunetti <davidabrunetti1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 17, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Roberts, Sherry; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: House Bill No. H-5447

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Chair Craven, First Vice Chair McEntee, Second Vice Chair Knight, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I have written at this time to urge you to vote in favor of House Bill No. H-5447.

This bill would prohibit a person to sell, offer for sale, display for sale or otherwise distribute a farmed animal fur product within the state and provides graduated civil penalties for violations.

Passage of this bill, for which the focus this year has become strictly for farmed animal fur products over the more general focus of the version introduced last year, would help to bring to an end the perpetuation of the barbaric, inhumane fur farming industry, which is unnecessary and for which there is essentially no regulation and where, at least in China, foxes and raccoon dogs are crammed into filthy cages, clubbed on the head or stunned with an electric prod, and sometimes skinned alive!

No animal should be caused to or allowed to suffer for this purpose.

There are no federal regulations in the U.S. governing how animals on fur farms are to be housed or killed.

Animals raised for fur are not covered under the federal Animal Welfare Act.

The slaughter of fur bearing animals is also not covered by the federal Humane Slaughter Act.

Most states where fur farms exist don't require farms to be licensed and state agriculture departments may not even be aware of the location, status, or existence of fur farms.

There is certainly no regulation of fur farms in RI.

Notably, on January 1, 2023, California's ban on the sale and manufacturing of new animal fur products officially went into effect.

Cities in California, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Florida have banned the sale of fur products.

Hundreds of companies and fashion brands have banned fur.

Many well-known fashion brands and designers have stopped using real fur completely. Some of them are Versace, Furla, Armani, Calvin Klein, Gucci, Michael Kors, Neiman Marcus, Ralph Lauren, Tommy Hilfiger, Shrimps, and Vivienne Westwood.

In 2021, Israel became the first country to prohibit the sale of fur.

Additionally, Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Luxembourg, Serbia, Italy, France, North Macedonia, the Netherlands, the UK, and more recently, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, and Ireland have legally prohibited fur farming, and the breeding practice has already been terminated.

Again, I urge you to vote in favor of this bill when it comes before you.

Sincerely,

David A. Brunetti
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