

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

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In favor of H-5447

March 3, 2025

House Judiciary Members

RI State House

82 Smith Street

Providence, RI 02903

Dear House Judiciary Members:

On behalf of our members, supporters, and board members, I am respectfully requesting that you vote in favor of House Bill No. 5447 by Representative Serpa and cosponsored by Representatives Edwards, O'Brien, Baginski, Solomon, Kazarian, and Lima.

The Act would prohibit the sale, offer of sale, trade or distribution of fur products as defined and would make violations punishable by a civil fine.

In the U.S., Los Angeles, San Francisco, Berkeley, and West Hollywood banned new fur sales paving the way for California to become the first state in 2019. Cities in Massachusetts, Michigan and Florida have since passed similar legislation.

It is publicly known that horrific animal cruelty is involved in making fur products.

On fur factory farms, wild animals spend their entire lives in cramped cages, deprived of the ability to engage in natural behaviors.

The stress from living in a tiny cage causes serious welfare problems, such as self-mutilation and infected wounds.

There are unregulated animal killing methods in the fur industry, which I am not going to describe.

The industry is full of inhumane practices while there are so many different options for warm and fashionable fabrics.

The excruciating process these animals go through for their fur must be ended.

Rhode Island should not continue to be part of this cruelty.

As a RI House member, I ask that you continue to protect animals and vote in favor of H-5447.

Very sincerely yours,

Dennis Tabella

**Dennis Tabella
Director**