

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related
Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Commerce, Justice, Science & Related
Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Language to Prevent Taxpayer Funds for Live Tissue Training

Dear Chairman Cartwright and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 2023 Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies bill, we respectfully request the subcommittee prevent taxpayer funds from being spent on wasteful and unnecessary “live tissue training” (LTT) at the Department of Justice (DOJ) by including this language:

Sec. _____. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to conduct, contract for or otherwise support live tissue training.

LTT is the practice of intentionally wounding live animals—usually stabbing and shooting pigs, goats, and sometimes dogs to then have trainees crudely attempt to repair the damage. As Chairman Cartwright has documented and the DOJ has acknowledged, the agency has continued to spend tax dollars on LTT as recently as 2019.¹ We agree with the Chairman that, “the use of animals for this training is expensive, obsolete, unnecessary and opposed by most Americans.”

This practice at the DOJ is unnecessary, as we have seen other federal agencies switch to human patient simulators that government studies have repeatedly shown are more effective and cost-efficient than LTT. We also understand the DOJ has already invested in the human simulation technology needed to make this transition. Unlike live animals, human simulators can be reused indefinitely – saving both taxpayer dollars and animals’ lives while improving medical training.

It is clear our military finds this practice not only less effective for training purposes, but costly as well. The Pentagon has stated that LTT is “outdated and cost-prohibitive” and that “live tissue training options are not anatomically accurate.”^{2,3} Similarly, the U.S. Navy has found, “highly

¹ Frazin, R. (2019, Oct 26). Lawmakers express concern to DOJ over training involving 'stabbing, burning and shooting' animals. *The Hill*. Retrieved April 2, 2022, from <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/467592-lawmakers-express-concern-to-doj-over-training-involving-stabbing>

² Defense Health Agency. 2016 Stakeholder Report. Retrieved April 5, 2022, from <https://health.mil/Reference-Center/Reports/2017/06/08/Defense-Health-Agency-2016-Stakeholder-Report>.


³ National Institutes of Health. Seed Funding Health Technologies. 2017 NIH Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Conference. Retrieved April 5, 2022, from <https://www.sbir.gov/sites/default/files/Master Health Technologies.National SBIR.pptx>


realistic [simulation] training was rated as more beneficial than live tissue training for the development of advanced corpsman skills,”⁴ and an Army-funded study concluded that simulated training costs less than live tissue training.⁵ Another recent Pentagon-funded study concluded that animated human simulators can replace LTT, stating, “preferential use of high fidelity manikins for emergency surgical airway training may reduce both costs and ethical harm to animals.”⁶ The U.S. Coast Guard is also adapting and has already discontinued LTT in favor of high-tech simulation.

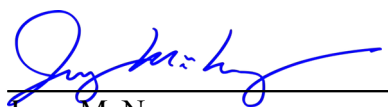
It is time DOJ follow suit and transition to more accurate and cost-effective technology – leaving behind the cruel and unnecessary practice of LTT. If our military can adapt to and rely on new practices, then surely our law enforcement can follow their lead.

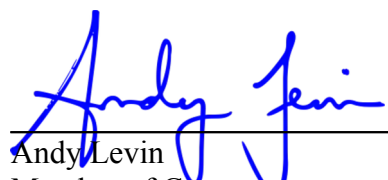
We respectfully request you include language to prevent taxpayer funds from being spent on LTT. We thank you for your attention to this issue and thank you for considering our request that will save tax dollars, protect animals from abuse, and improve training for DOJ personnel.

Sincerely,


Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress


Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

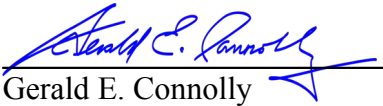

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress


Andy Levin
Member of Congress

⁴ Booth-Kewley, S., McWhorter, S. K., Dell Acqua, R. G., Altarejos, I. V., & Schmied, E. (2015). *Perceived strengths and weaknesses of highly realistic training and live tissue training for Navy corpsmen*. Naval Health Research Center San Diego United States. Retrieved April 5, 2022, from <https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/1000732.pdf>.

⁵ Evans, L., & Post, L. (2016). *Evaluation of the effectiveness of LTR training versus simulation training and stress inoculation*. Yale University New Haven United States. Retrieved April 5, 2022, from <https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/1025216.pdf>

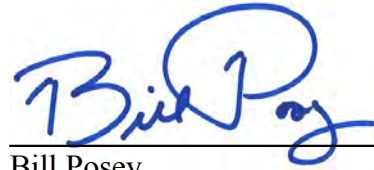
⁶ Pandian, V., Leeper, W. R., Jones, C., Pugh, K., Yenokyan, G., Bowyer, M., & Haut, E. R. (2020). Comparison of surgical cricothyroidotomy training: a randomized controlled trial of a swine model versus an animated robotic manikin model. *Trauma surgery & acute care open*, 5(1), e000431. Retrieved April 5, 2022, from <https://doi.org/10.1136/tsaco-2019-000431>



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



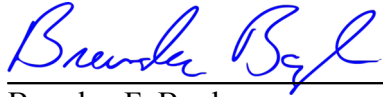
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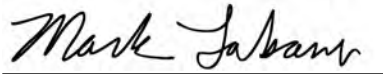
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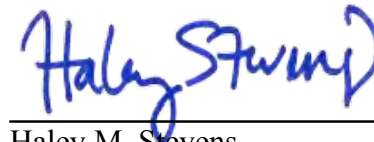
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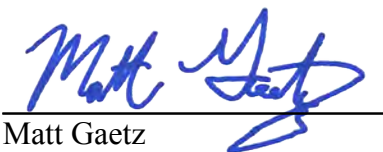
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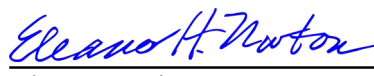
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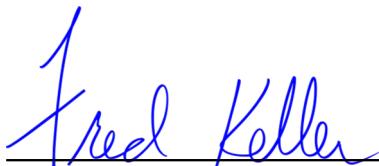
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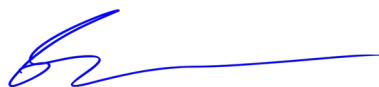
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