

Submitter: Cold Poison  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3390

I submit my full support for this bill, on behalf of animals whose rights are already sparse. I have complete confidence that my support represents far beyond my own view, and actually resonates with all sane people's utmost preferences. Whether or not they are aware of it, their values extend to animal welfare. If this sounds arrogant, I will introduce the simple consistency test I considered when making this determination which I welcome everyone, the House Committee especially, to ask themselves when considering their advocacy for this measure. What trait is true of an animal, which if true of a human would allow us to find it morally acceptable to allow the sale or trade of human body parts? If the trait is intelligence, your view would allow mentally handicapped people of being exploited. If the trait is possessing human DNA, any beings similar to humans but have minor changes to their DNA would be acceptable by your view to allow the sale of fur products. If the view is that it's a trait-stack, just take a human and trait-equalize them to your proposed set of traits. In all honesty, you will find that you cannot name a trait that makes it acceptable to extend basic rights to one and not the other.

The truth is, if you cannot logically differentiate between humans and animals such as to explain why one is worthy of having basic rights such as the right to life, to bodily autonomy, and non-exploitation and the other is not, then you are left with the most frightening consequence of all. Which is that your view allows for horrendous acts to happen to the same kinds of minds that you find worth protecting, but the only reason you would support one and not the other is the shell of their appearance. Your view's inconsistency effectively leads to insane logical consequences. It means that if you were blindfolded with a weapon and told that you had to end either a sentient being's life whose description could match either an animal or a human whose mind resembles them, you wouldn't know how to describe which one you would be okay with choosing over the other. And hopefully, this thought-experiment would serve as a reminder that the impasse you would reach on how to differentiate which one has more moral value would cause you to realize that you actually value both beings in question. That even if you didn't answer the thought-experiment, and went about your day pretending or mistaking that answering this was frivolous, the real-life consequences of your view would entail allowing beings to die that deep down, you couldn't morally differentiate them from humans who are reduced down to their level.

Never engaging with your true thoughts doesn't avoid issues you find dear to yourself. It just hides it from your own realization. Ignorance not equaling bliss is nothing new, and as a point by analogy, can be realized time and time again with regards to any other past human-rights concerns that humanity once saw as

acceptable. For example, humanity once failed to realize that owning slaves was immoral. It wasn't because people genuinely held different views on fundamental human rights. It was because nobody was in awareness that their views didn't actually align with their own preferences. As it stands right now, by supporting the animal holocaust through diet and lifestyle choices, most people are in that same boat of doing something they don't actually agree with. I urge everyone to look within themselves to realize that they can be standing closer to the evolution of our society by passing this bill. They can actually be a part of the change that allows less suffering and rights violations to beings that they can't even differentiate from their own dogs or cats in any morally meaningful way, let alone a trait-equalized human. Introspect, please, everyone. I am not here to tell you at all what you care about, but to help you get closer to what your own values are so that you see that we are more alike than we currently realize.