

Subject **Re: MEDIA: AB 44 Rabbit Amendment**  
From <info@pawpac.org>  
To Will Carruthers <wrcarruthers@gmail.com>  
Date 2019-04-02 22:05

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Mr. Carruthers,

Thank you for your message. The AB 44 story is preempted by a tidal wave of opposition to Friedman's AB 700, which adds a multitude of exemptions to the CPRA. The bill has amendments which do not yet appear in leginfo. Animal protection groups are on the verge of protest over AB 700, because it would hide animal research data in our publicly funded postsecondary institutions.

The networking, calling and writing legislative offices for AB 700 are the explanation for my delay in returning a response to your questions. Please accept my apology.

AB 700 related links:

[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB700](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB700)

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-seife-ab-700-scientists-disclosure-20190401-story.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/JaneVelezMitchell/videos/402608913862549/>

<https://archive.org/details/LettersOfSupportOrOppositionToAB700-2019Session>

<https://twitter.com/search?src=typd&q=%23AB700>

<https://usrtk.org/food-for-thought/dont-weaken-the-california-public-records-act-no-on-ab-700/>

There's another bill, AB 273 by Lorena Gonzalez (AD 80, Chula Vista & parts of San Diego), that would ban trapping of fur-bearing and nongame mammals. Unfortunately, rabbits are not protected under AB 273 because they are a small game mammal by CA code definition.

[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201920200AB273](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB273)

To answer your question about Mr. Levine or any other legislators you may be researching, please see PawPAC's voting charts on the CA legislature's votes on humane issues:

[www.pawpac.org](http://www.pawpac.org)

(Tap "scorecard")

There you will see that Assemblymember Levine has these grades, from 2015-2018:

B, A, B, A-

In 2013 & 2014, he received an A-

As for an official statement about the use of fur from previously exploited animals for their meat, I will speak from my own view, that I do not support the manufacture, sale, photography of, or any other use of the dead body parts of any species of animal, regardless of the cause of death. With an amendment to exempt fur production from an animal hunted for its meat, I can only imagine that more animals would be hunted for their meat, in light of the prohibitions proposed in AB 44.

To elaborate on my earlier response, the animal community is confounded at how Assemblymember Laura Friedman (AD 43, Glendale, Burbank and environs) could be carrying anti-fur legislation while at the same time supporting animal researchers, among others, to hide their research from the public that funds that research.

Animal research is unquestionably the most heinous exploitation and torture of any type of abuse. Please see Unnecessary Fuss:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdnYpJ9b\\_NY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdnYpJ9b_NY)

I learned of a terrible experiment where scientists took pairs of rats, joined the circulatory system of one to the fecal output of the other to test the limits of how fecal matter would corrupt blood. Naturally, these scientists would want their research methods to be exempt from FOIA or CPRA.

In our public universities, such as U.C. Davis, animals are:

- infected w disease
- electric-shocked
- separated from mothers
- intentionally poisoned

in the name of research, most of which is not even needed. And there are alternative testing methods. Please see this article by PCRM:

<https://www.pcrm.org/ethical-science/animals-in-medical-research>

As a backdrop to my response, please know that for 39 years PawPAC has, as a 100% volunteer organization, protected animals through its grassroots lobbying and endorsements and support of humane-minded candidates. Our committee and board members--stretched across the state--all volunteer time to track and network legislation, after tending to work and family schedules. This keeps PawPAC free of any corporate interest, which helps keep transparency in the legislature regarding humane issues. Because of the nature of this committee, it is not usually possible to gather a committee statement on journalist inquiries. Our bylaws allow the Chair to speak on behalf of the org.

Here is a 25-year history of the bills PawPAC deemed fit to include on its voting charts. Bills prior to 1993 are not archived online.

[www.pawpac.org/historical](http://www.pawpac.org/historical)

Here is PawPAC's most recent Capitol alert (which was published before the controversial amendments in AB 700). If you would like to join that distribution list, please click/tap "Subscribe" in the upper left corner (alerts go out every few weeks from March to October, with a few extra blasts toward the end of each session).

[www.pawpac.news/pp2019mar](http://www.pawpac.news/pp2019mar)

If you are working in humane issues, please take the time to study the media linked here, and join our list. As a journalist, I invite you to err on the side of the animals' interests, because in this world they have no voice, no choice in what is done to them by our corrupt and greedy society. If you see an abuse that you would not want to your dog or cat, then this abuse should not happen to -any- animal. They need your voice, and an army of thousands more.

Lastly, I mention that the animal justice movement is central to the social justice movement at large, including #EnvironmentalJustice #ClimateChange #MeToo, #BlackLivesMatter, #ImmigrantsWeGetTheJobDone #GunControl #IndigenousPeoplesGenocide #BigPharma #BigAg #BigOil and even #NuclearWar. Because these issues are about one thing: DOMINATION. And corporate greed.

[www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/connect-the-dots-between-animal-protection-environmental-ethics-and-human-rights/](http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/connect-the-dots-between-animal-protection-environmental-ethics-and-human-rights/)

Sincerely Yours,

René Rowland, Chair  
PawPAC  
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[www.pawpac.org](http://www.pawpac.org)

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[www.facebook.com/CaliforniaPawPAC](http://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaPawPAC)

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[www.twitter.com/CAPawPac](http://www.twitter.com/CAPawPac)

On 2019-04-01 16:51, Will Carruthers wrote:

Hello,

I am a reporter working on a story for the Marin Pacific Sun about Assemblymember Marc Levine's proposal to exempt the fur of rabbits grown for their meat from AB 44. Levine's office pointed out that the assemblymember has a perfect voting record with your organization.

Can you comment on Levine's proposed amendment?

Unfortunately I'm running up against my deadline, but I wanted to reach out to give you an opportunity to respond. I'll do my best to put your quote in the article if you can get back to me tomorrow.

Sincerely,  
Will

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