

Submitter: Emily Mangan
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB976

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Emily Mangan and I am a licensed veterinarian serving the Willamette Valley as a mixed-animal mobile practitioner. I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 976.

This bill would allow individuals without veterinary licenses to perform equine dentistry and pregnancy evaluations in cattle under undefined "training" or "certification" programs. These procedures are not merely routine animal management tasks—they involve medical decision-making that, when performed incorrectly, can cause serious harm.

Equine dentistry requires an in-depth understanding of anatomy, pathology, and pain management. Improper dental work can lead to chronic pain, difficulty eating, weight loss, and severe infections. Unlike licensed veterinarians, non-veterinarian practitioners are not subject to standardized education, accreditation, or oversight, increasing the risk of substandard care.

Similarly, pregnancy evaluations in cattle—if done improperly—can cause stress, internal injury, and even pregnancy loss. This bill lacks safeguards to ensure that non-veterinarian practitioners have adequate training or that their work meets professional standards. Without veterinary oversight, there is no clear accountability if harm occurs.

Beyond these immediate concerns, SB 976 undermines the Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR), which is a cornerstone of responsible animal care. The VCPR ensures that medical decisions are made with a comprehensive understanding of the animal's health history, management, and welfare needs. Veterinarians do not simply diagnose pregnancy or float teeth; we assess the overall well-being of the animal, provide pain management when necessary, and guide owners in making informed decisions about care. Weakening this relationship creates risks not only for animal well-being but also for consumer safety in food production.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote no on SB 976. Thank you for your time and consideration in protecting the health and welfare of Oregon's animals.

Sincerely,

Emily Mangan, DVM CVA CVCH CVFT CVTP CCRV CVMMP FFCP