

Submitter: Carrie Marcum
On Behalf Of: SB 976
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB976

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing today to express my opposition to SB 976. As a mixed animal veterinarian in eastern Oregon, the potential effects of this bill are very concerning for both animal welfare and our profession. Supporters of the bill are suggesting that this will alleviate the shortage of large animal veterinarians, however it will prove detrimental to both the client and the veterinary industry. These visits for dental care of horses and pregnancy diagnosis in cattle include more than just that. They establish or maintain the VCPR, discuss management, handling practices, and overall health. Maintaining a VCPR, particularly in areas with veterinarian shortages, is of critical importance when clients do have emergency needs. In a time when our industry is attempting to resolve a shortage of large animal practitioners, allowing people to do the tasks that we have trained for and dedicated our lives to, will push practitioners out of the field even further.

Additionally, the majority of lay dentist travel from area to area. The argument that they are more readily available than the resident veterinarians would seem to be inaccurate.

Another concern is the use of pharmaceuticals. Appropriate equine dentistry requires the use of pharmaceuticals which veterinarians are not only trained for but are licensed to use and held accountable through agencies such as the DEA. Lay dentists are and will continue to use these pharmaceuticals illegally.

Possibly one of the most concerning issues is that of accountability and oversight. Veterinarians are required to maintain licensing, continuing education, and liability insurance to protect not only ourselves, but our patients and clients. Who is held accountable if a lay person misdiagnosis pregnancy, causing economic loss to the producer? Who is accountable if a lay dentist causes damage to a horse's mouth? For the protection of our patients, and the maintenance of quality care, I strongly urge you to vote NO to SB 796

Carrie Marcum, DVM