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On Behalf Of:
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Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB976

Equine dentistry cannot be safely, accurately or expertly performed to industry standards without proper sedation. Proper sedation cannot be safely administered without a veterinarian. This logistical fact alone is enough to stop this bill.

Procurement of sedation by lay dentists will be illegal, few to no veterinarians are going around sedating horses for lay dentists. The primary sedation used in equine dentistry are alpha-2 agonists- this is the family of drugs xylazine belongs to which is quickly becoming a controlled substance due to human abuse. We do not need lay people with more (illegal) access to these drugs.

Equine dentistry is a complex procedure that necessitates a deep understanding of anatomy and physiology and requires many hours of practice, mentorship and continuing education to continue to perform well. It is absolutely a medical procedure. With no governing body to regulate lay equine dentists, there will be no standard of care and horses will suffer. Owners will have no one to turn to when things go wrong. Further, like human dentistry, often proper dental diagnostics require radiographs (x-ray) which a lay practitioner cannot perform or interpret.

As a veterinarian, I have witnessed the aftermath of countless improper dental procedures by lay dentists and owners are left with no course of action.

The notion that veterinarians as a whole are undereducated in dentistry is simply false. I have 1000's of hours of equine dentistry experience and many, many hours of didactic and continuing education in the subject. I also answer to a board and carry liability insurance.

I can only assume no one reading this testimony would go to a lay human dentist with little to no education with drugs they have illegally acquired? Allow their dog to be sedated by a lay person and have a dental procedure?

This bill harms horses.