

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

Hello Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee.

My name is Wendy Krebs. I am an equine veterinarian in Bend, Oregon, where I have practiced for over 20 years. I am very familiar with equine dentistry, and perform these important services for my patients on a daily basis, helping them to live better quality, more comfortable and longer lives. I am proud of the impact my care has on their lives. The dental care I provide is always in the context of having first taken a full medical and nutritional history, performed a full physical exam including listening to the heart and lungs, assessed their body condition and screened for other underlying conditions. At times, radiographs or other advanced diagnostics may be needed to assess for dental and mandibular fractures or to see if extractions are required.

I do not support SB 976, for several reasons.

I have often seen horses that received dentistry services from non-veterinarians. While some of these lay dentist individuals perform a reasonable job for horses, many are poorly trained and either do minimal improvements to the horses mouth, or even more concerningly, remove excessive tooth and create damage, causing negative health consequences for the horses such as inability to appropriately chew their feed, resulting in colic, etc. Lay dentists do not have the diagnostics needed in many cases to fully evaluate compromised mouths and therefore provide inadequate care, which they may not be willing to admit to their clients.

While I am regulated by the Veterinary Medical Examining Board, giving my clients recourse in the event that I am negligent or provide poor care, lay dentists are not regulated in any way, leaving the state's citizens and horses at their mercy should they act negligently or irresponsibly. I am additionally covered by a \$1,000,000 professional liability insurance policy, again giving the state's citizens recourse should there be adverse outcomes. Lay dentists do not carry insurance. Horses have become valuable commodities and trusting their health and well being and submitting them to medical care provided by a potentially minimally trained and regulated "floater" puts them at risk, and puts their owners at financial risk.

Unlike the circumstances with other lay practitioners such as farriers, where owners can easily see and evaluate their work, horse owners are rarely able to see well into their horses' mouths with sedation and a speculum to evaluate the work done by a

dental provider. This leaves the door open for charlatans with little integrity.

Additionally, most lay dentists charge similarly to what veterinarians do, not offering any financial benefit to the client/citizen, and certainly not providing any benefit to their patients over care provided by a licensed, regulated, and well-trained medical professional veterinarian.

Please understand equine dentistry is not analagous to equine farriery, and that passage of this bill may create significant harm to your constituents' horses as well as their finances.

Thank you for your time and consideration; I strongly urge you to vote against this bill.

Wendy Krebs, DVM