

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

Dear Senator Nash,

I am a veterinarian that is licensed and practices regularly in Oregon. I am also a horse/cattle owner. I strongly oppose this bill as it is a massive step backwards in animal health and welfare. Horses should not have their teeth floated without the use of sedatives and sedatives can only be safely administered by a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Allowing lay people to perform this procedure is irresponsible, unsafe and unethical. Horses deserve to be treated by a licensed professional who has their best interests in mind, not by a lay person with minimal training who has a much higher risk of hurting the horse than helping it, not to mention hurting themselves in the process.

Determining if a cattle is pregnant takes years of experience and does not just involve palpating the uterus. It involves herd management and consultations encompassing performing physical exams on the cattle, ensuring they are vaccinated/dewormed properly, and troubleshooting reasons why cattle may not be pregnant. Large animal veterinarians have trained for 8 years of their lives to be able to manage cattle properly; thereby ensuring a healthy food supply and healthy economic future for producers.

By allowing this to pass, you will be putting the lives of horses and cattle in jeopardy. You will be creating a situation where the limited amount of large animal veterinarians we have in this state will have to respond to more injuries and illness directly and indirectly caused by lay people performing these procedures. If large animal veterinarians are not available, these animals will suffer until or if the veterinarian is able to come out to treat them properly. You will further exacerbate the already severe shortage of large animal veterinarians we have in this state and nation. You should be lobbying for funding to help more people become large animal veterinarians and to help more large animal veterinarians stay in the field longer.

Please reconsider this bill for the sake of horses, cattle, veterinarians, producers and the general public.

Sincerely,

Raquel Schenone, DVM