

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

My name is Dr. Renee Saxton, DVM and I am an associate veterinarian at Goodell Veterinary Clinic in Klamath Falls, Oregon. We provide large animal veterinary services for many clients in the county and pregnancy diagnosis (palpation) of bovine and equine dentistry are a high volume of our daily workload.

I do not support SB 976.

Allowing a non-licensed individual to perform these services negatively impacts our patients and clients.

1. There is no established Veterinary Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR). Not only is this a LAW REQUIRED for veterinarians to diagnose, treat and/or prescribe medications, but it is also necessary to provide the best possible care for these animals. An animal's medical history and overall health is at risk if there is no VCPR.
2. The training courses for these non-licensed individuals are not standardized or vetted, unlike the accreditation standards required for veterinary education. Without the oversight and teaching from a licensed accredited veterinarian, these animals could be harmed, injured, or develop lifelong health issues from improper training.
3. Administration of ANY drug or medication by a non-licensed individual could not only have a negative impact on the individual animal(s) being treated but could affect food production and consumer safety.
4. The use of sedative drugs by non-licensed individuals poses a HUGE health risk to the individual animal(s). There is rigorous education and pharmacological training required by accredited veterinarians to administer these drugs not only for proper use, but for the safety of the animal as well. Accredited veterinarians are also required to have an FDA license, which protects the owners of these animals and the public.

I want to close by thanking the committee members for their time.

I am very concerned with allowing non-licensed individuals to perform these services and bypass the lifelong commitment and passion for animal welfare that accredited veterinarians swore to in their oath.

I urge you to vote NO on SB 976.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renee D. Saxton, DVM". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Renee Saxton, DVM  
Goodell Veterinary Clinic Klamath Falls, Oregon