

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

My name is Dr. Douglas Corey, I am a retired equine/large animal veterinarian, from Pendleton, OR. I am also a past president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners located in Lexington, KY with over 10,000 members. I do NOT support SB 976.

Equine dentistry involves more than "floating" horses' teeth. Equine dentistry is an evolving specialty that is now recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association as the practice of veterinary medicine. "Veterinary dentistry is a function of veterinary practice because it requires a diagnosis and treatment."

A very big concern to the welfare of the horse and the public is the use of sedatives. Most horses require the use of some form of sedation to do dentistry. The use of sedatives should be preceded by an exam and evaluation of the whole animal. The use of narcotics and sedatives drugs require medical training and experience. The access to narcotics and sedatives is controlled or limited because of the danger these drugs pose to humans and animals. Knowledge of emergency medicine and emergency intervention in case of adverse reaction or event is of paramount importance. I ask, do YOU want to allow lay people access to narcotics and sedatives?

Unlike the accreditation standards for veterinary education, a lay dentist will have no training courses that are standardized or vetted and not recognized for certification.

Lay people will not be responsible to anyone and no liability. Veterinarians are educated, licensed individuals and, as such, are held accountable to their state veterinary medical boards. This mechanism is in place to protect the public.

The welfare of the horse is extremely important! This bill does nothing to promote equine welfare and in fact sets the welfare of the horse back. There is a true value to the Veterinary-Client-Patient relationship, and that needs to exist. These are important concerns. I am very concerned about this issue and this bill.

Thank you for your time. I urge you to vote No on SB 976.

Sincerely,

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