



Dave Rademacher D.V.M.
Creigh Lincoln D.V.M.
Thomas Pitzer D.V.M.
Shanna Sallee D.V.M.
Carrie Marcum D.V.M.

Dear Senator,

I am writing concerning Senate Bill 976. I grew up in Eastern Oregon, received my undergraduate and doctoral degrees in Oregon, and have been practicing veterinary medicine in Hermiston for the past 11 years. The Senate Bill 976 undermines the veterinary profession and endangers animal welfare.

Equine dentistry cannot be safely practiced without appropriate chemical restraint. Legalizing lay person dentistry encourages procedures without sufficient restraint or prescription drugs being administered by the lay dentist. If no sedation is being used, the horse's welfare and the safety of all those involved, are in jeopardy. If lay dentist are using prescription sedative drugs, including xylazine, they are still practicing veterinary medicine without a license. I am concerned that legalizing lay dentist encourages the use of prescription drugs without the physiologic knowledge of how these medications work and should be administered. I question the route, dose, safety, and liability of these procedures.

Additionally, routine cattle pregnancy checks are one of the primary methods to maintain a valid Veterinary Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) with our cattle producers. These visits allow us to evaluate the entire herd, animal handling facilities, and methods. In turn, we gain valuable information and consult our clients appropriately. Working cattle alongside our clients creates a rapport which far exceeds an office style consultation visit. Recently, all antibiotics have been placed in the hands of veterinarians to prescribe, only with a valid VCPR. Without these routine, preg-checking visits, it takes away an effective mainstay to create a valid VCPR. The message to the public that you need a veterinarian for medications, but not for pregnancy checks is contradictory. Without preg checking visits we lose opportunities to educate our clients, which jeopardizes the welfare of the cattle industry. This Bill is undermining veterinarians' education and the services we provide.

My concern for this Senate Bill is not from a financial standpoint. As a mixed animal practitioner, I can generate a much larger income with small animal appointments versus equine dentistry or pregnancy checking. However, I chose this career to be able to help and educate our cattle producers. My unease is if you remove equine dentistry and pregnancy checking, it severely limits routine visits with our large animal clientele. This leaves veterinarians only being needed on an emergency basis, which does not usually fall during business hours. By limiting our scope of practice, it would be difficult to want to continue to work with large animals. Furthermore, this bill would create challenges for recruiting and retaining large or mixed animal veterinarians in the state of Oregon.

If you have clarifying questions or would like to discuss this matter, please contact me by phone or email. I encourage you to listen to the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association and veterinarians practicing large animal medicine. Opposing this bill is critical to animal welfare and preserving the veterinary profession in the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Shanna Sallee, DVM