

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

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

My name is Cierra Buer and I am a veterinarian from Powell Butte, Crook County, Oregon.

I oppose SB 976.

As a veterinarian, I have seen firsthand the harm laypeople can cause to animals when they don't have veterinary training. I have seen cattle with torn rectums from pregnancy exams. Even more common, I have seen horses with teeth that were floated or rasped too aggressively rendering them unable to chew their food properly. I have also had to redo dental work because it wasn't done properly. These were all situations where laypeople were performing these activities illegally. Likewise, there are no consequences for the people who are causing this harm. I definitely do not think legalizing these activities is beneficial to owners or their animals. It will create more work for veterinarians as well as causing harm to animals.

I also have many concerns about the training courses of non-licensed individuals—for both preg checking and equine dentistry. They are not standardized or vetted, unlike the accreditation standards for veterinary education. Along with those concerns are those relating to properly performing equine dental care. It is essential to sedate a horse to perform the job properly. Veterinarians are the only ones who can sedate animals legally or safely. Allowing non veterinarians to perform equine dentistry will promote the misuse and illegal diversion of these drugs.

I would like to thank the committee members for their time. I hope they will seriously consider the larger implications of this bill and its impact on animal welfare. I urge them to vote no on this legislation.

Thank You,
Cierra Buer, DVM