

Good afternoon Chairman Golden, Vice Chair Nash and Committee members. Thank for for the opportunity to address the committee on SB976. My name is Dr. Gail Colbern and I am a veterinarian in Ashland. I am also Board Certified in Animal Reproduction

I'd like to address my grave concerns about SB 976 that would allow lay persons to perform equine dental work and pregnancy diagnosis on cattle for a fee. I will only address the pregnancy diagnosis as that is my specialty.

My major concerns are about Animal Welfare and the potential negative effects this bill could have on the health and welfare of Oregon cattle:

- Variability in lay provider training results in:
  - Possible misdiagnosis
    - Incorrect dating: not dried off in time or not monitored
    - Pregnant dx but not > management change and no calf
    - Nonpregnant dx but is > hormone inj > abortion of calf
  - Liability and governance is nonexistent for lay providers
    - No overseeing board as OVMEB does for veterinarians
  - Incorrectly performed palpation and/or ultrasound can result in direct animal harm
    - Rectal tears
    - Ovarian injury
    - Lay person has no ability to treat these adverse health outcomes
- Preg checks provide the ability for veterinarians to do so much more than just diagnose pregnancy:
  - Address illness or abnormalities in the animal or pregnancy as well as assess the overall health of the animal
    - Reportable diseases (Trichomonas)
    - Zoonotic diseases (Leptospirosis or HPAI)
  - Respond to physical injury or illness with a medical treatment
  - A veterinarian can assess herd health and nutrition by establishing a VCPR for:
    - Health mgmt. protocols
    - Nutrition protocols
    - Mastitis protocols
    - Young stock management
    - Vaccine protocols
    - Sick cow management
    - Weather related management and treatment
- To address a potential shortage of rural veterinarians, they need to be able to work and support their education and career. To enable veterinarians to live and work in these communities, to be able to respond to health emergencies and foreign animal disease outbreaks, they must be supported by the ranchers and dairymen. The trust built with a VCPR is critical. A visit for preg checking cows covers so much more than just a pregnancy diagnosis and is essential to improving the efficiency and economy of their business.