

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

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dr. Paul Duff, and I am an equine veterinarian in the Portland, OR region. I am in opposition to this bill, and have been in other states I have practiced in in the past.

There are many issues this bill does not address:

- A certified equine dentist has no regulatory board, meaning if something goes poorly, they have no oversight and thus, no repercussions occur for a poor outcome. Veterinarians are licensed through the state and our licenses require continuing education to maintain and a board to be held accountable to.
- Many horses can have dental work unседated, however without sedation many pathologies will be missed or not addressed. I enjoy sharing the horse's mouth with their owners to show what we are doing and why we are doing it.
- This does not address the equine veterinary shortage. People turning to others instead of their regular equine vet is one of the reasons many leave equine practice. If veterinarians are not performing equine dentistry on a routine basis and only coming to the farm to address extensive problems when they are too far-gone, this results in more expense to the owners and poor welfare for the horse. Also many other common welfare conditions are addressed and diagnosed at routine dental exams.
- If your horse needs radiographs or medical/surgical treatment related to dentistry, a veterinary team is prepared for this.

I am happy to have a dialogue about this bill, but the current way it is written I believe will negatively affect horse welfare and owner's pocketbooks. Vague rules about who is allowed to perform procedures and a lack of oversight are main reasons this bill should not pass in it's current form.

Thank you,  
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