

Submitter: Ann Dingerson
On Behalf Of: SB 976
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB976

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

I wish to register my strong support of SB 976. This bill would allow appropriately trained and certified individuals to perform equine dentistry without requiring licensure as an Oregon State Veterinarian.

Here in Central Oregon we have a very limited supply of licensed veterinarians for horses, yet a very large population of horses. As all horses require routine dental services (recommended every 6 to 12 months) on a regular basis to maintain nutrition, comfort and health, the addition of specialists trained solely in the provision of routine dental exams and procedures would be invaluable to serve the current population of horses. Similar to the use of nurse practitioners in health care, practitioners of equine dentistry would assume responsibility for routine maintenance dentistry, and free up the veterinarians to perform more complex dental procedures (requiring some anesthesia) and other medical procedures.

The equine dentistry professionals would be trained and certified at established schools; they would have expertise in dental assessment and basic routine maintenance, and the ability to determine when to refer cases up to the licensed practicing veterinarian. They will be an invaluable component of the equine medical team caring for and maintaining the health of horses in our state.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill in support of our animals' health and welfare.

Sincerely,
Ann Dingerson