

Submitter: Robert Bullard
On Behalf Of: Livestock owners
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or
Topic: SB976
Submitter: Robert Bullard DVM
To: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Re: SB976

As both a horse owner and experienced practicing veterinarian I urge you to please vote NO on SB976 as it not only puts animals at risk but also leaves owners without the liability protection afforded by the Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board. Performing rectal exams can and does result in trauma, rectal tears, and even death when done improperly. Dentistry encompasses an entire array of diagnostics, procedures, and surgeries, many of which involve sedation and local anesthetic drugs which cannot be administered without first completing a physical exam and having the ability to attend to any adverse events associated with the administration of such agents. Proceeding without the availability of such agents is not acceptable veterinary practice.

I would suggest you consider the following:

1. SB976 offers no standards of certification for any training.
2. Are they required to pass a Board exam to assure competence?
3. There is no oversight by the Board of Veterinary Examiners.
4. Are these "practitioners" required to be licensed? Have liability insurance?
How will the consumer be protected from roving cowboy "practitioners"?
5. Per paragraph (4) - Who exactly are "allied health practitioners? According to most definitions, this would seem to allow nurses, sonographers, dental hygienists, naturopaths, dieticians, etc., and presumably physicians to practice veterinary medicine with only a referral from a licensed DVM. Can that be a referral via a video call? It is absurd to think all these professionals can now be competent to practice on animals with the stroke of a pen.
6. Finally, if you do support this bill, would you also then support a companion bill supporting the unlicensed practice of human dentistry and proctology?
SB976 may have been well-intended but it opens the door to the very type of animal abuse and unregulated veterinary practice that we now protect with the Veterinary Practice Act. Please vote NO on SB 976.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Bullard DVM