

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

Thank you for allowing testimony. I have been a horse owner for over 20 years and actively compete in equine events across the pacific northwest. I also have served on the board of directors for three equine organizations here in oregon (I am currently the treasurer of the Oregon Dressage Society). My grandfather was a cattle rancher in Kelso, WA, and I have been around horses most of my life.

I oppose this bill because from a humane and equine welfare standpoint, equine dentistry should be done while the horse is sedated and I believe that this level of sedation needs to be managed by a licensed veterinarian. Domesticated horses need to have their teeth filed down to reduce the sharp edges and hooks that naturally occur from eating commercially grown hays and grains. If they do not get this work done, these edges and hooks often result in sores and ulcers in the mouth and on the tongue. In my decades of horse ownership - from Alabama, North Carolina, Nevada and Oregon, I have never ever seen a horse that did not require sedation in order for the vet to fully assess the condition of the horse's teeth - much less file down the edges and hooks on the molars in the back of the horse's mouth.

I will admit there will always be exceptions to every rule - there may be a horse that is so gentle that sedation is not required. Just like you may be the one in a million person able to have a crown placed on a molar without novocaine at your dentist. But the harm that would result by passing a law to allow for the rare exception - in uneducated owners or owners trying to save money stressing their horses when they are forced to have their teeth examined and filed down (incompletely) without sedation, in untrained / unlicensed persons damaging livestock (and resulting litigation), and potentially having unlicensed equine dentists carrying around equine sedatives (illegally?) - is not worth the convenience that this law would provide the very very rare horse owner.

Please oppose this bill.
Thank you for your time.
-Susan Hill