

Submitter: Stephen Pappa

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or  
Topic: SB976

I am a mixed animal veterinarian in Bend, OR. I would oppose this bill as written because it would potentially harm animals and their owners by allowing the practice of equine dentistry without training or licensure. In my personal experience I have worked on horses that have been harmed by over zealous use of mechanical filing equipment to the point that the horse could not chew regular food. This creates a starvation problem that is not easily fixed and produces suffering for the animal and tremendous worry for the owner. Multiple other medical problems in the mouth of horses are also missed without a full education such as loose teeth and abscessed teeth or gum disease, leading to further delay in diagnosis and management to the detriment of the horse. My worries around the checking of cattle for pregnancy revolve again around the lack of adequate training to identify multiple other medical problems that may be present in any individual. If abortions and dead calves and uterine problems are not diagnosed and treated there is potential suffering of the animals and danger to the herd and public health from a multitude of potential infectious diseases. Primarily my opposition reflects the lack of rigorous education and training that unlicensed individuals have, which precludes evaluating and diagnosing the entire medical problem. It would leave many animals inadequately evaluated and treated to their detriment.

Steve Pappa, D.V.M.