

2/21/2025

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kelly Cooper, and I am a licensed veterinarian in Oregon. I am writing to express my concerns regarding Senate Bill 976, and I respectfully urge you to vote no on this legislation.

The bill would allow non-licensed individuals to perform both equine dental procedures and cattle pregnancy verification without adequate veterinary oversight, with high risk of endangering the welfare of these animals. Both procedures carry significant risks when performed without proper training and supervision.

Equine dental procedures require an understanding of complex oral anatomy and potential complications. While the bill requires a "valid degree or certification," it does not define standards for this training. Unlike veterinary education, which follows strict accreditation standards, there is no mechanism to ensure the quality or consistency of these certifications. This could lead to inconsistent levels of care and put horses at risk of complications.

Similarly, cattle pregnancy verification, while seemingly straightforward, requires proper technique to avoid injury to both the cow and the fetus. Accurate pregnancy staging is also crucial for herd management and food production safety. The bill's requirement of "received training" is vague and lacks standardized competency measures.

The Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR) provides crucial oversight for these procedures, ensuring:

- Proper evaluation of the animal's overall health before procedures
- Appropriate handling of complications if they arise
- Integration with the animal's complete health records
- Professional accountability

Without these safeguards, this legislation could compromise both animal welfare and food safety standards. I urge you to vote no on SB 976.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these important animal welfare concerns.

Sincerely,
Kelly Cooper, DVM
Oregon City, Oregon