

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

My name is Dr. Josie Walker, previously a mixed animal veterinarian located in Klamath Falls, Oregon and I do not support SB 976.

Allowing a non-licensed individual to perform equine dentistry and bovine pregnancy detection will negatively impact our patients.

- To start, a Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) will not be established. It is unlawful to diagnose, treat and prescribe medications without this very important VCPR. Important underlying/chronic conditions may be overlooked putting the patient at harm.
- In order to provide quality equine dentistry, appropriate sedatives need to be administered, which can only be provided by licensed veterinarians. Without sedatives, dental procedures are extremely painful and inhumane to the patients. If non-licensed individuals are illegally providing sedation, this poses another huge risk as the individual is not trained in accurate dosages, administration and side effects, nor equipped to manage any drug reactions should they occur.
- Non-licensed individuals are not appropriately trained to perform equine dentistry procedures including proper examinations, odontoplasty, dental extractions and corrective procedures. Veterinarians undergo extensive training to learn appropriate anatomy, procedures and techniques. Most non-licensed individuals training consists of short courses which are not adequate, putting patients welfare at risk.

I want to close by thanking the committee members for their time. For these reasons and many more, I strongly encourage you to vote no on SB 976. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Josie Walker, DVM