

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

I believe that this bill should not pass, as a third-year student in veterinary school at Oregon State University, I know first-hand how much time, knowledge, and training goes into learning how to do bovine pregnancy checks and equine dentals. In order to accurately assess pregnancy status, a veterinarian knows that it takes at least hundreds of palpations and ultrasounds. To allow untrained people to perform these checks would allow inexperienced people to charge for their potentially erroneous interpretations. This could leave hard working farmers scammed out of their money, when they would likely be looking to save it by not bringing in a veterinarian. The same applies to equine dentals, there is a level of knowledge and expertise that is required to do an equine dental. Maybe there is less concern citing that untrained personnel might do "simple" dentals with no complications, but you can never plan for everything. It is worse case scenarios that a veterinarian can step up and even save a life, versus and unprofessional causing harm or killing to a patient because they began a procedure unprepared. A final point, safety should be the utmost priority especially with these large animals (horses and cattle both easily can weigh 1000 pounds). Proper restraint, handling, facilities, and equipment are paramount for safely handling animals and making sure no one gets injured. I worry that with less experience there is an increased risk for harm to coming to the people who try to work on these large animals.