

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

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

My name is Valarie Zeek and I am a Veterinary Assistant for Pacific Crest Equine Veterinary Services. I live in Molalla, Oregon on my family farm where I have raised and cared for horses and cattle. I have been involved in the equine world all my life and have held my current job since 2007. The veterinary practice I am part of does hundreds of dentals on horses every year. I am opposed to SB 976. I am very concerned with the lack of education this bill will allow for lay-dentists and pre-checking of cattle. A couple of weeks of training cannot compare to years of education giving veterinarians the knowledge of sedation, anatomy, physiology, and possible complications. Dental work impacts the comfort and life span of horses. I have seen horses who have suffered from infected veins and dental complications that lead to their early demise of teeth caused from unlicensed practitioners. I have also been involved with several cases where the licensed veterinarians have made decisions on how to proceed based on heart conditions found when examining the horses before their dental work. Will a lay-dentist understand how what they do, or not do, could affect the health of the horse? Would the course they took cover heart conditions or sedation reactions? Horses and their owners deserve to be treated by people who recognize, understand, and can treat complications that can happen during procedures such as dentistry. Education standardization should be figured out before allowing anyone to practice invasive procedures that impact the life of our equine partners.

Again, I am opposed to SB 976, please vote NO.

Thank you for your time,  
Valarie Zeek