



February 22, 2025

Senate Bill 9716: Oppose

Dear Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Committee Members:

The Oregon Veterinary Medical Association opposes Senate Bil 976.

This bill proposes to amend Oregon Revised Statute 686.040 of the Veterinary Practice Act to allow non-licensed individuals to practice equine dentistry and to perform pregnancy services on cattle according to uncertain and undefined training programs.

But the bill assigns any responsibility for rulemaking for this allowance to the Oregon Department of Agriculture, which *may* consider drafting rules *but is not obligated* to do so.

What oversight would there be? What standards of care would be adopted? How would ODA consider and investigate complaints against non-licensed individuals? Would that be our State Veterinarian? Or would it include a group of people within ODA? Does the ODA – Animal Health – have the fiscal support to administer all the above? Because there would be a cost to the agency.

Typically, licensing boards would manage and administer what I have shared with you, as they have the knowledge and experience of licensure. In this case, that would be the Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board. There would be a fiscal cost for them as well.

The responsibility of the OVMEB is to serve in the interest of animal health and welfare, public health, and consumers of veterinary services. Inclusive in their oversight, the OVMEB regulates the practice of veterinary medicine in Oregon. They make and enforce rules for competency, health and safety standards for practitioners and facilities. As part of the agency's public protection, they license and investigate complaints against veterinarians, Veterinary Technicians, euthanasia technicians and veterinary facilities to ensure compliance with the Veterinary Practice Act. The review of complaints provides the public with an avenue for having their concerns about care of their animal considered.

Licensees of the OVMEB – both veterinarians and technicians – are graduates of accredited, well-established and rigorous programs that undergo regular re-accreditation. Upon graduation both must pass National Board Exams before they can apply for a licensure.

Why is accreditation important? Accreditation provides assurance that veterinary colleges comply with a published set of quality standards and promotes continuous improvement in veterinary education, providing future veterinarians with excellence in their education and training.

None of this exists with equine dentistry “schools” for lay individuals. Typically, these schools are two-to-four-week unregulated courses that do not include oversight as to the quality of instruction. Certifications of such equine dental courses are not legally recognized in that there is no national accreditation.

For these reasons, among many others, we oppose Senate Bill 976 and ask that you oppose the bill as well.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Glenn

Glenn M. Kolb, Executive Director
Oregon Veterinary Medical Association

