

Submitter:	Jon Goodell
On Behalf Of:	SB 976
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 Jon Goodell, I am a veterinarian from Klamath Falls and have been practicing for 32 years. My clinic is primarily a large animal practice, with a significant scope of it being equine dentistry and bovine herd health. I am writing this letter because I strongly oppose SB 976. I am not surprised that these two procedures have been picked out because they appear as a technical skill that lay people watch and think "I could do that". Equine dentistry has been sought after by the lay population for years, but there are good reasons this has been maintained under the Veterinary Practice Act. First of all, to do a safe dental procedure, safe to both the horse, the dentist, and the handler, tranquilization is a necessity. Using sedatives properly, effectively, and safely, require pharmacological schooling which we receive in veterinary school, but the lay person will not receive in a 2-4 week unvetted "lay dental course". The sedatives we use are often controlled substances requiring the veterinarian to have an expensive and heavily regulated DEA license and handling protocol. In addition, the sedatives used that aren't scheduled drugs at this time have been recently under legislative pressure to become DEA regulated. It is currently frustrating to know the lay dentists working illegally in Oregon somehow obtain these drugs and do their procedures anyway, which shows the character of the people SB 976 would allow to legally operate. Another reason this should remain under the Veterinary Practice Act is the involvement of the veterinarian in the overall health of the horse. The veterinarian is required to do a physical exam which is our time to assess the health of the horse, and if the horse is in need of dentistry procedures or if other medical or surgical intervention would be more in the horse's best interest. The lay dentist is trained to work on the horse's teeth, not to decide if it is necessary or not. The behavior of horses, their response to negative stimuli, and their size, create a significant risk for unpredictable outcomes. The veterinarian's medical training, ability to use different medications, and access to diagnostic tools make us the only safe option in dealing with these outcomes. My best example of this is a case where I used an ultrasound to find a needle that had broken off in a horse's jugular vein from a lay dentist trying to sedate a fractious horse. Pregnancy diagnosis, confirmation (preg checking), may appear as a simple procedure that could be done by non veterinarians. However there are several reasons this should be under the curtain of practicing veterinary medicine. Preg checking cows is the veterinarians opportunity to assess the herd health and individual health of our client's cow herd. This is our best time to establish a veterinary client patient relationship (VCPR). Cattle diseases often present first as reproductive failure in a herd. Keeping the veterinarian involved in pregnancy confirmation gives us a chance to detect and

make the client aware of reproductive failure, then take the steps involved in making a herd disease diagnosis. The cow herd is the beginning of the beef food supply. Detecting herd diseases is the first step to producing a healthy food product. This is why the veterinarian is under heavy pressure from the USDA and FDA to assist our clients in minimizing disease in their cow herds. Another important reason for the veterinarian to have this opportunity to maintain a VCPR with our cattle clients is for dispensing prescription medications. Antibiotics are now under strict control of an existing VCPR, which is best maintained by the veterinarian being involved in herd preg checking. Being a licensed veterinarian takes a lifetime commitment to the welfare of the animals we work on and the industries they contribute to. These two services give a chance to make this contribution