

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

I strongly oppose SB 976, which allows non-licensed individuals to provide equine dental services and to pregnancy assess cattle in Oregon. As an owner of 6 sport horses as well as a horse boarding facility, here are my issues and concerns:

- Equine dentistry is medical practice. It requires extensive knowledge of not only a horse's mouth and teeth, but also all the medical issues which can accompany a "simple" cleaning. Horse teeth need to be cleaned, ground, pulled, and maybe treated for infection as these issues are often discovered during a dentistry procedure. These issues have happened with my horses. A vet can diagnose and treat these issues immediately. Only a person with a medical background and experience should be working in a horse's mouth.
- All horses must be sedated before a large metal appliance is inserted to keep the mouth open. The horse must be standing. Each horse must be evaluated for how much and what kind of sedation to be used. A trained equine vet knows how to apply sedatives properly to keep a horse standing, but without killing him with an overdose.
- If something goes wrong, how does an untrained, uncertified, non-medical person respond? They have no training and cannot diagnose a problem. They have no access to prescription drugs, nor the ability to prescribe a medication.
- There is no regulatory board nor state/national exam to standardize horse dentistry as a "stand-alone" skill apart from attaining a veterinary medicine degree. There is nothing holding a person to a standard of care for horse dentistry.
- I would ask each person reading this to think about having a person other than a certified dentist (DMD) or certified technician work on your own teeth. Would you allow it?

Please vote NO on SB976.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Waldroff
Oregon City, OR