

February 22, 2025

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

My name is Damian Goodell and I am the office manager for a large animal practice in Klamath Falls. The clinic and ambulatory service was established in 1998, and employs two large animal veterinarians that provide herd health services to producers in Klamath County and perform a significant number of equine dentals.

I am strongly opposed to SB976.

First, I would like to point out that lay people have been 'performing' equine dentistry in Oregon for twenty-something years with impunity. They have practiced veterinary medicine without sufficient education or license. They have obtained, stored, and administered sedatives without the DEA license or pharmacological education required to do so. They have sedated and performed a veterinary procedure on horses without liability insurance to protect the client and the animal. So I wonder, why change anything? They do it without consequence anyway.

As an office manager, I am involved in making sure that the veterinarians in the practice are properly licensed and insured, and have the continuing education hours required to maintain licensure. These requirements come at the expense of time and significant monetary cost. However, it is what comes with the responsibility of protecting the animals and the clients and providing up to date standard of care.

Additionally, (and ironically) recall that last year the federal government required all medications be changed to prescription only. Antibiotics commonly used for bovine herd health, such as LA200 or penicillin now has to be prescribed through a veterinarian. So a cattle producer can't be trusted to administer a common antibiotic to his own cow, but the lay equine dentist with no pharmacological training can use a sedative on somebody else's horse!

Lastly, with regard to pregnancy checking services for cows: This is possibly the only time the veterinarian sees a producer's herd on an annual basis. It is the opportunity to diagnose and address any problems that could ultimately affect what is essentially a large percentage of our nation's food source. Lay preg checkers are only just that.

I strongly urge you to consider the very negative ramifications of the passage of this bill and dismiss it.

Sincerely,

Damian Goodell