

Submitter: Rachel Quesnel
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,
As a horse owner and someone who has worked in the equine industry for the last 20 years, I oppose SB 976. Allowing those who do not have extensive training in the whole horse, the ability to humanely sedate horses for the procedure, and the ability to diagnose and treat conditions of the mouth will likely contribute to the suffering of animals.

I work with an older horse population and have seen the importance of having a qualified veterinarian provide dental care. They are able to spot and treat root infections, prevent long term issues by correcting the bite and movement in the mouth, take radiographs to know what is happening under the surface of the gums, and extract teeth as needed.

Lack of sedation for dental work would add trauma to the animals and prevent a thorough dental procedure. The horse has to be relaxed to allow the provider's tools to reach onto the back of the mouth to smooth the back teeth. Allowing people who are not able to sedate animals to provide dentistry would add to the trauma of large prey animals which decreases the safety of the people around them as well. Sedation requires training, access to the medications, and an examination of the animal to be sure they are healthy enough to tolerate the sedation.

Dentistry is complex and vital for a horse's overall wellbeing. Proper dental care throughout a horse's life helps prevent disease, reduce choke and colic episodes, maintain healthy weight, and decrease pain. Each horse's mouth is unique and allowing those who are not trained and regulated to participate in this medical process will likely cause negative outcomes for horses and their well-meaning owners.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.