

Submitter: Samantha Boyajian
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or SB1539
Topic:

To whom it may concern regarding SB 1539,

I am a practicing veterinarian in Oregon who regularly sees bovine patients in my practice. I am firmly opposed to this bill; it blurs established professional boundaries that are in place to protect the public as well as animal health/safety. A cornerstone that sets my profession apart from others in the animal industry is the ability to assess and define a diagnosis. Pregnancy impacts an animal's health and requires adjustment in that animal's caretaking. Determining the health status of an animal as "pregnant" or "not pregnant" is indisputably a diagnosis of an animal's health condition. This should remain in the scope of practice of a veterinarian, a position that has been rigidly taught and proctored for animal health and welfare. Arguably, most important, my position as a veterinarian is routinely observed and required to continue licensure upkeep by an established organization with set rules that delineate if a licensure should be revoked. There is a widely recognized and longstanding system in play to coordinate checks and balances of veterinarians. This bill cites that the Department of Agriculture would be the organization in charge of monitoring/approval of allowing non-veterinarians to sell these pregnancy diagnosis services. The Department of Agriculture is not an appropriate overseer for animal medical care. That should remain within the governing body, the Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board, and Oregon veterinarians.

If a non-veterinarian or layperson is allowed to market and perform pregnancy diagnosis as a business, what happens if those pregnancy diagnoses are continually incorrect? Or if an animal is not pregnant due to an illness that is not properly marked as cause for infertility? A producer/rancher/farmer has the right to follow-up. And a layperson simply cannot provide this accurately. This proposal of allowing laypeople to develop a business to charge for pregnancy diagnosis is a half-step or middleman to a veterinarian. And therefore is ultimately an additional cost to a producer leading to a waste of resources and time due to the follow-up requiring a veterinarian's input.

To be clear, I am not against any of my producers performing their own pregnancy diagnosis for their own cattle. It is their own right. My opposition lies directly with the establishment of a "business" that is built on poorly set standards, suboptimal preparation and lack of governing or follow-through. This truly opens an avenue for Oregonians to be tricked into paying for a service that, at its core, should remain between a producer and their veterinarian.

I care very deeply about my patients and the owners/producers that come attached to them. My request for opposition stems directly from that care. Please oppose SB 1539.