

February 2, 2026

Re: SB 1539

I would like to share my thoughts on SB1539. I have practiced Veterinary Medicine in Eastern Oregon for the past 52 years, primarily in Burns.

My concerns about unlicensed people diagnosing pregnancy in cattle are the following:

- Although the exam appears to be a simple technician job deciding which cows are pregnant, the most important thing is which cows are NOT pregnant and WHY they are not. There are many factors that affect successful reproduction in cattle and a veterinarian is best equipped to diagnose and offer proper advice so that producers can make the best decisions for their livestock and for their profitability.
- The most important contact that we have with our producers is the day that we spend evaluating the herd reproduction. That is when we learn about them and their herd's nutrition and health. Developing that relationship is the most valuable tool available which gives us (Veterinarians) the basis for helping develop herd health and reproductive programs.

- Our value as a member of a producer's management team is far greater because of the time spent "preg testing" with them.
- Now it is becoming more difficult to attract young Veterinarians into livestock practice and as important client interactions become devalued, there is less to draw them into that area of Veterinary medicine. OH, so the skill set that is developed by that critical herd evaluation results in Veterinarians with less value to our producers.
- So, it becomes more about diagnosing reproductive problems, improving our skills, understanding the lives of our clients, increasing our value to them than which cows are pregnant.

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