

February 4, 2026
SB 1539
OPPOSE

I am the Executive Director of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP). AABP is an international association of over 5,000 cattle veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and veterinary students. The mission of the AABP is to provide support, continuing education, and advocacy for current and future veterinary professionals and the cattle they serve. The vision of AABP is to serve society as leaders in cattle health, welfare, and productivity. I am writing to you to express our concerns with SB1539.

AABP has a position statement that defines the performance of pregnancy determination via rectal palpation or ultrasound as the practice of veterinary medicine, consistent with the current regulations in Oregon and each of the other 50 states in the US. This procedure is invasive, can cause harm to the patient, involves a diagnosis, and can include interventions that require prescription medication. For these reasons, this procedure must remain under the practice of a licensed and regulated veterinarian.

One of the primary stated reasons for support of this bill is lack of access to a veterinarian. These reports are typically anecdotal and this herd health visits for pregnancy diagnosis through reproductive examinations is the cornerstone of bovine practice. Veterinarians can also perform hundreds of exams per day and can service large numbers of animals today. Removing this procedure as a veterinarian-only diagnostic evaluation will further erode the access to care for producers in Oregon simply due to economics. A veterinary practice that is left with only emergency work may cease to provide any services to rural Oregon cattle producers.

Herd health visits for reproductive exams is also one of the main reasons to establish and maintain a Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship (VCPR). Without a valid VCPR, producers do not have access to prescription drugs, emergency care, and routine sick animal exams. The VCPR is also the relationship that allows the veterinarian to provide herd health interventions, implement biosecurity programs, prevent disease, and report diseases that have public health consequences. We are more at risk for these diseases now due to the recent Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreak over the past two years and the threat of emerging diseases such as New World Screwworm, Theileria, Anaplasmosis, and Foot and Mouth Disease.

Many of the letters of support submitted state that producers cannot access veterinarians to perform this service. What is the evidence for this specifically? How do we know that they will be able to access a lay person who is unlicensed and unregulated? Producers have an option for a non-invasive, accurate, and economical chemical pregnancy test using milk or blood samples that can be mailed or performed cow-side on the farm. This test is readily available for situations where there was no other option and allows the producers to continue to work with the veterinarian without performing an invasive

procedure that can be harmful to the animal. This is similar to the human medicine model where a woman takes a home pregnancy test then has follow-up with the medical doctor. We do not allow lay people to ultrasound women for pregnancy evaluation nor do we allow lay people to perform services in other medical fields in remote communities that have limited access to care.

AABP strongly opposes any measure that encroaches on the license of veterinarians who are trained and regulated medical professionals. Doing so risks both human and animal health, as well as has the unintended consequence of causing more economic harm to rural veterinarians who are already paid less than urban counterparts and will further challenge the workforce shortages in rural Oregon.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Fred Gingrich II DVM". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "DVM" part being more distinct and upright than the first name.

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