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

February 2, 2026

To Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Committee Members,

My clients will tell you I'm not one to beat around the bush, I get to the point and work really hard to provide value and education.

Here's the truth as I see - this bill is not about access to care, it is about getting services cheaper.

1st - Clients can get an over the counter pregnancy blood test to test their cattle at home with no veterinarian needed.

2nd - Clients can take classes and even purchase an ultrasound machine (cheaper than a tractor or even a bull) and preg check their personally owned cattle - it's perfectly legal.

Simply put there are ways to legally preg check cattle without allowing legislation devaluing veterinarians. So what is the true purpose of this legislation?

There is no other state in the US that allows lay people to preg test cattle for money, because it crosses the line of veterinary services. Your right, charging for the service seems to be the only difference between lay people and veterinarians providing this particular service. However when a veterinarian charges money to provide the service of pregnancy diagnosis it is so much broader - they are evaluating for cattle body condition, evaluating for pregnancy rates, reproductive problems, they are considering diseases and treatments, nutrition and preventative care vaccinations. Veterinarians on the farm providing the service of preg checking are truly simply providing veterinary service, maintaining the VCPR (valid client patient relationship), answering questions and providing clients with up to date information on cattle health, emerging disease and state a federal rule changes - for example the changes in brucellosis vaccinations requirements or the changes in the required permanent ID.

Yes there are veterinary shortages, allowing lay people to preg check cattle does nothing to fix this problem. In fact I would say allowing lay people to do veterinary services - in the end will do the exact opposite. Rural veterinary practices are unique businesses, they are small businesses generally 1-2 veterinarians with support staff,

practices are required to have medical supplies, prescription medications, diagnostic equipment and vehicles to travel miles. There are somewhere around 300 veterinarians in rural Oregon. Additionally these veterinary practices are required to provide emergency services - 875-015-0030 (9). This is a tremendous responsibility/requirement. It means at best the veterinarian is "on-call" half of the time - we are talking 24/7 availability. Let alone if it's a single vet practice. Truly can you imagine being on call 24/7/365 for a career say 20 plus years? This type of working environment is exactly what new graduate veterinarians do not want. According to a recent research paper published in 2025 new graduate veterinarians want mentorship, work/life balance, flexibility, shared on-call responsibilities. The only way to provide that type of work environment, to keep veterinarians living in rural communities and protecting the American food chain, is to support veterinarians.

What are we truly trying to fix with this bill? Access to veterinary services? This bill highlights an issue that is much bigger than Oregon: the shortage of veterinarians in rural America is a national problem. There are other solutions:

Support review of the veterinary practice act to allow trained certified veterinary technicians who work for a veterinarian to expand their scope of practice.

Support USDA Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Plans

Consider a state sponsored support plan for veterinarians in rural Oregon (other states have plans like this)

There is a veterinary shortage - let's address that issue.

Thank you for your time - I'm happy to discuss further

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