

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

Sepha Dunagan DVM
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Senate bill SB 1539 (oppose)

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

I read through the different testimonies that have been submitted, both the ones in favor and the ones against this bill. I think the testimony submitted by the OVMA lists all of the concerns in a very organized way and I agree with all the points made in their testimony.

This bill does nothing to address the rural veterinary shortage and will in fact be damaging to the current rural veterinary community in Oregon. There needs to be appropriate training, licensing, insurance, and oversight to whomever provides a veterinary service for payment. Not having this puts the cattle, the owner of the cattle, the public, and the person performing this task at risk for disease and a malpractice suit.

There are current exemptions in the law that make it possible for owners to pregnancy check their own cattle. But if they pay someone to do it for them, this person should be a licensed individual overseen by the appropriate agency. Veterinarians on farm visits do more than just check for pregnancy. The relationship with the client makes it possible for the client to access the needed medications and emergency veterinary services when needed. Perhaps we could look into training licensed veterinary technicians to perform services like this, so there is at least veterinary supervision and guidance when needed.

Please vote NO on SB 1539

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