

Submitter: Robert Bullard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1539

SB1539 further erodes the protections of the veterinary practice act to the detriment of both the livestock producer and the animals in their care. It would seem from the wording in this bill that these providers will be "unlicensed" . If so, then how can they be credentialed, regulated or insured? While pregnancy diagnosis of range cattle frequently determines whether a cow is retained or culled, in dairy herds, open cows are then diagnosed and treated for reproductive disease. Are we just to assume that these new unlicensed practitioners will not engage in diagnosing open dairy cows with pathologic issues and "suggesting" or even rendering treatment? What agency will regulate their activities? If they are not licensed by the OVEMB, who will be available to enforce compliance with this new law?

Further, does this not open the door to further cherry-picking of veterinary services? Next year will they request to make their services available for all other types of livestock and horses as well? Why not dogs? What about other "routine" veterinary services such as vaccines, lab work, x-rays, etc.?

There is a better solution that is available right now. We have a system of trained, certified Veterinary Technicians (CVTs) that are licensed by the OVMEB. They have continuing education requirements that need to be satisfied just as veterinarians do and must work under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. These technicians currently serve to extend the veterinary workforce in a responsible manner that serves the public and the animals well.

Let's capitalize on the system we have that we know works well and not jeopardize animal health in an effort to solve an immediate short-term inconvenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Bullard