

February 23, 2026

Oregon Legislative leader:

I am writing to ask for a NO vote on Senate Bill 1539. This bill enables non-professionals to perform pregnancy evaluations on cattle.

I am a livestock veterinarian and currently Associate Dean at the Gary R. Carlson, MD College of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State University. Prior to my time in academia, I enjoyed a 30-year career in private dairy cattle practice. I am opposed to this bill and ask for your no vote for the following reasons:

1. Pregnancy determination in cattle (currently defined in Oregon as the practice of veterinary medicine) is an invasive procedure and may result in harm to the animal if the evaluation is not performed carefully by a professional.
2. Veterinarians have been trained to understand and identify diseases, safeguard animal health and welfare, are licensed, required to meet standards of care, and carry malpractice insurance. Currently there are no standardized or accredited programs for lay individuals to provide these services.
3. Allowing nonprofessionals to perform pregnancy diagnosis in cattle threatens rural veterinary practices as this is a primary method for producer: veterinarian interaction on farms and ranches. It also threatens animal welfare as these visits allow veterinarians to observe overall animal care and feeding, design biosecurity programs and preventive health programs, discuss animal care and management and diagnose and monitor disease.
4. Veterinarians work closely with the Oregon Dept of Agriculture – Animal Health to monitor and report livestock diseases. Oregon beef and dairy cattle are at risk for economically significant diseases such as Leptospirosis, Trichomoniasis and Brucellosis, and are threatened by other serious cattle diseases like Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and New World Screwworm. These diseases may be easily missed by individuals that are not veterinarians. In addition, many diseases causing failure to conceive or abortion are also zoonotic (humans can be infected).
5. If producers are unable to find a veterinarian for these services, other non-invasive pregnancy tests exist, such as the BioPyn blood test for pregnancy. While these tests do not involve veterinary supervision and leave out the opportunity for professional guidance, they are accurate.

I ask you to protect the welfare of our animal resources and consider the impact on rural veterinary practices by voting NO on Senate Bill 1539.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph J. Klopfenstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph J. Klopfenstein, DVM DABVP (Dairy)
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