

March 31, 2025

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich and honorable members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee,

My name is Krista Lindquist Welch, DVM and I am a resident of Portland. I am submitting testimony in opposition of LD 1220, An Act Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids.

My veterinary practice is dedicated and limited to providing the integrative medical treatments of chiropractic and acupuncture to my patients. I have earned certification from, and maintain current membership standing with, the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association. I deeply respect the science and the art of chiropractic, and I share in my human DCs colleagues' root desire to provide greater access to chiropractic care to animals, but I do not believe that this bill upholds the oath that I took to protect animal health and welfare, and the prevention of animal suffering. These are words that veterinarians have dedicated their lives, both professionally and personally, to defend.

Veterinarians have earned their doctorate degrees through extensive and exclusive study of the anatomy and diseases of non-human animals, as well as the safe handling and husbandry of these animals. This bill is dangerous for animal welfare on multiple levels as there are no definitions for what constitutes animal chiropractic, and there is nothing to specify who is going to monitor and enforce the requirements put forth in this legislation. In addition, although the bill only seeks to include those of the canine and equine species, there are no protections put in place for any other non-human species. As a veterinarian I am asked, often in the moment as a "while you are here" request, to also examine a myriad of species including, but not limited to, cats, cattle, alpaca, goats, sheep, and rabbits. All of which I have specific anatomical knowledge, which is critical in direct work with the axial and appendicular skeleton as well as all of the associated soft tissues. It is irresponsible to simply assume that the welfare of species beyond dogs and horses do not have the potential to be affected by this bill through the removal of control of medical care from veterinarians. Parallels can be drawn to the unlawful, but allowance without repercussion, of equine dental care being practiced by non-veterinarians in the state of Maine.

Chiropractic is the practice of medicine, and is a powerful and important treatment modality. There is no reciprocity for tolerance for veterinarians that are trained in animal chiropractic to practice on humans. Such an act would result in the loss of licensure in any circumstance. I, and all my veterinary chiropractic colleagues, are personally working as hard possible to provide chiropractic care to as many animals as possible in Maine, and while this may not be enough, this bill will ultimately put the welfare of animals at risk, which I cannot support.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this extremely important matter.

Krista Lindquist Welch, DVM, CVA, IVCA certified

Stable Alignment Veterinary Services, LLC

Krista Lindquist Welch
Portland
LD 1220

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