

Emily McLeod
All Creatures Chiropractic
LD 1220

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Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Maine State Legislature
Room 436, State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

It has recently come to my attention that you are considering LD 1220, which would allow AVCA

(American Veterinary Chiropractic Association) and IVCA (International Veterinary Chiropractic

Association) certified animal chiropractors to have direct access to perform chiropractic adjustments

on domestic animals. As the Assistant Director and a Lead Instructor of Parker University's Animal

Chiropractic Program and a practicing animal chiropractor, I have a unique perspective on the

importance of this legislation. In addition to my role as an educator, I have been privileged to work

closely with veterinarians over the years, building positive, collaborative relationships with them in

order to provide comprehensive care for animals.

At Parker University, our Animal Chiropractic Program trains chiropractors and veterinarians side by

side, in an interdisciplinary approach that ensures both professions are equipped with the knowledge

and skills necessary to provide safe, effective chiropractic adjustments in a manner which fosters

collaborative care with other veterinary and animal care professionals. The program includes over 210

hours of specialized education in animal chiropractic care, with a strong emphasis on animal anatomy,

biomechanics, and adjustment techniques. Our curriculum ensures both chiropractors and

veterinarians have a shared understanding of musculoskeletal health, fostering a deep respect for the

role each plays in the overall health of animals. We directly address collaborative care and boundaries

for Doctors of Chiropractic who provide animals with chiropractic care.

As a practicing animal chiropractor, I have had the opportunity to work directly with veterinarians for

over two decades, enjoying collaboratively to address a range of musculoskeletal issues in order to

provide maximum benefit to each of my animal patients. A teamwork approach with referring and

treating Veterinarians is, for me, a critical aspect of animal health care. Animal

chiropractic care can significantly enhance the effectiveness of veterinary treatments, particularly for animals dealing with chronic pain, joint issues, and mobility challenges. By working in close partnership with veterinarians, we can provide animals with comprehensive care that combines the benefits of chiropractic adjustments with the necessary medical interventions. Chiropractic adjustments are a safe, non-invasive treatment option that has been shown to help improve range of motion, alleviate pain, and restore function to animals suffering from musculoskeletal conditions. The benefits of chiropractic care are particularly evident in cases where traditional veterinary care may have limited success. However, it is essential to understand that chiropractic care does not replace veterinary care—it complements and enhances it. In my practice, veterinary care remains the foundation of an animal's overall health, and chiropractic adjustments can provide relief and improve quality of life, particularly in conjunction with traditional treatments. I have seen firsthand the positive results that chiropractic care can offer animals, and I believe allowing qualified, AVCA and IVCA certified animal chiropractors direct access to perform chiropractic adjustments will provide pet owners with more treatment options and improve overall animal welfare. This bill will not only ensure that animals receive the highest quality of care but will also enhance the collaborative efforts between chiropractors and veterinarians, ultimately leading to better outcomes for animals in need of specialized musculoskeletal care. In a time when the United States is experiencing an incredible shortage of veterinarians - to the point that Colorado just passed a very controversial veterinary assistant bill allowing non-DVMs to perform minor surgeries and other medical procedures - certified animal chiropractors can work alongside veterinarians to provide care they are too busy or untrained to provide. I respectfully urge you to pass LD 1220 and support the ability of certified animal chiropractors to offer their services to animals in a safe, effective, and ethical manner. The relationship between chiropractors and veterinarians is one of mutual respect and shared goals, and this legislation will further strengthen that partnership, benefiting the animals for whom we care. Thank you for your time and consideration. Gratefully,

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