

April 3, 2025

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

My name is Anne Lichtenwalner, and I'm a Maine-licensed veterinarian and a resident of Orono, Maine since 2008. I am submitting testimony in opposition to LD 1220, An Act Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids.

My concerns include the lack of specific training for chiropractors in the anatomical and physiological systems of animals, topics which are thoroughly covered and reinforced during veterinary school and beyond (continuing education requirements). As well, chiropractors have no initial nor ongoing requirements for competency testing in animal applications. Chiropractors do not have the extensive diagnostic and treatment skills and supporting services to handle complications during animal treatment or follow-up; in contrast, veterinarians maintain clinics with trained staff and networks of colleagues for consultations in challenging cases.

Just as veterinarians should not treat nor prescribe for humans, chiropractors should not treat animals. There are programs within veterinary medical schools to equip veterinarians with chiropractic skills, however.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Anne Lichtenwalner DVM PhD