

Kelsey Houston  
Vassalboro  
LD 1220

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

I am Kelsey Houston, DVM, a resident of Vassalboro, and I am submitting testimony in opposition of LD 1220, An Act Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids. I am a licensed veterinarian in the state of Maine practicing on dogs, cats, horses, small ruminants, and more. Having human chiropractors practice on canines and equids gives me concern due to the lack of training and knowledge of the anatomy of these animals which differs significantly to that of a human. I have had firsthand experience dealing with a human chiropractor overstepping their position and attempting to practice veterinary medicine. Last year a client who is a human chiropractor brought her dog in for its annual exam and vaccines. During this appointment the client brought up a goat patient she had seen recently. The owner of the goat reported she had a "toe out of place" and the veterinarian who saw it recommended humane euthanasia or amputation as the goat was in constant pain. The owners of the goat asked the human chiropractor to adjust the toe so they did not have to do either of the listed options that the veterinarian had recommended. The client who is a human chiropractor said she took radiographs of the goat before and after and she attempted to show me these radiographs during the appointment for her dog. She then described how the goat got loose from them and was running out in the main road. After telling me this story, she then said she was taking radiographs of her dog in order to diagnose pregnancy. She showed me these images and said that she believe the dog was pregnant based on (what she pointed out in the image) was gas in the small intestines. As veterinarians we attend years of schooling and, often, graduate with hundreds of thousands of dollars of student loan debt. However, in order for us, as licensed veterinarians, to perform chiropractic services on patients we have to go even further with our education and debt to become certified. Only then are we able to legally provide these chiropractor services. On top of this, human chiropractors do not have the knowledge base of zoonotic animal diseases and the risk this can pose to humans. For example, a non ambulatory goat presenting for "back issues" that actually has *Listeria*. Or a cat presenting for adjustment that is actively shedding *Toxoplasma gondii*. A dog being adjusted that gets nervous and urinates on the floor, shedding *Leptospirosis*. A dog with intervertebral disc disease presenting for an adjustment that causes permanent paralysis. Situations like this are what concerns me for human chiropractors starting to see animals such as canines and equids. There is a vast difference in medical knowledge especially that of anatomy that leads me to believe that this bill would do more harm than good for animals.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.  
Kelsey Houston, DVM