

Susan Chadima DVM, MS

448 Foreside Rd – Topsham, Maine 04086 - Phone: 207.504.0090

April 3, 2025

Committee on HCFIS

Legislative Information Office - 100 State House Station – Augusta, ME 04333

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

My name is Susan Chadima. I am a Maine licensed veterinarian and a resident of Topsham. I am submitting written testimony in opposition to *LD 1220, An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids*.

This bill fundamentally allows chiropractors to expand their scope of practice by allowing them to diagnose (“evaluate”) and perform chiropractic care on animals of any species based on the completion of 210 hour (5.25 week equivalent) training course and certification by either the AVCA (American Veterinary Chiropractic Association) or IVCA (International Veterinary Chiropractic Association). Both the AVCA and IVCA are professional membership associations, neither of them is a federally accredited educational institution.

Licensed veterinarians, complete 4 years of professional training at colleges which are federally accredited by the AVMA COE (American Veterinary Medical Association – Council on Education) before passing rigorous national and state licensing examinations. The Maine Veterinary Practice Act specifically states that the practice of veterinary medicine includes the diagnosis and treatment of animal diseases and allows for chiropractic procedures performed by veterinarians.

Chiropractors are not veterinarians. They lack the comprehensive training, knowledge, and diagnostic tools to effectively and accurately diagnose animal diseases and abnormalities. Chiropractic procedures may indeed be an effective modality to help treat specific animal spinal and musculoskeletal disorders. That is why increasing numbers of veterinarians also have advanced training in chiropractic, and many veterinarians in Maine provide chiropractic services.

Allowing Maine licensed chiropractors to have unrestricted ability to diagnose and treat animals without a veterinary degree, without a veterinary supervision mechanism, without effective enforcement, endangers the health and wellbeing of the animals in our state, and the public we serve. LD 1220 is not in the best interests of our state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Susan B Chadima

Susan Chadima DVM MS