

Caitlin Daly
Rockland
LD 1220

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

I am Dr. Caitlin Daly and I'm a resident of Rockland and I am submitting testimony in opposition of LD 1220, An Act Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids.

As a practicing equine veterinarian of 14 years, I have been providing chiropractic services to horse owners throughout the state of Maine since 2018. To become qualified to provide these services I had to complete 128 hours of equine specific chiropractic training, as well as pass an extensive written and practical exam. This is in addition to the four years of my core veterinary education and an additional year of internship training. The depth of my education and the vast years of experience have enabled me to asses, diagnose and treat the horse in its entirety and facilitate specialist referral when appropriate. With the inability of animals to speak for themselves, it's incredible important that they are surrounded by veterinary professionals trained in animal behavior and disease so that they can translate on an animal's behalf in a language their human owners can understand.

Horse owners, with the best of intentions, will often seek out chiropractic care for a horse that, to them, doesn't seem right or isn't moving well. I've never met a horse who wouldn't benefit from a chiropractic adjustment, but I also have never met a horse for which a chiropractic adjustment is the primary treatment. In the last 7 years, after examining a patient scheduled for a chiropractic adjustment, I've diagnosed countless cases of lyme disease, degenerative osteoarthritis, painful cases of spinal impingement, vitamin and mineral deficiencies, endocrine disorders and just today a torn meniscus. I was able to alleviate pain and suffering in these animals by providing appropriate diagnostics and treatments. In my hands, these owners were able to get to the true source of their horse's problem more efficiently and cost effectively than if they were left in the hands of a non-veterinarian called out for the same concern.

Horses, a flight animal by nature, are inherently dangerous, further intensified by their sheer size. Maintaining a safe environment for the horse and the humans working with them requires and extensive knowledge of equine behavior and a strong foundation in horsemanship. Offering chiropractic services to horses may seem benign, but even in my experience I have had chiropractic patients rear, strike out, kick out and bite. Equine veterinarians are well verse in treating horses in a variety of working conditions. We are aided by trained staff, as well as physical and chemical restraints. And god-forbid the worse happens, we carry an extensive amount of liability insurance to protect our patients and their owners. This is not a job that anyone and everyone can do. It is not a job that translates directly from human medicine. It is a job, that if done incorrectly, ineffectively, or without concerns can have catastrophic results, even with non-invasive services such as chiropractic care. Allowing non- veterinarians to provide chiropractic services to horses puts not only the horse, but the owner and those around them in a potential dangerous situation, one where they may unknowingly have little to no protection provided by the person offering these services.

I ask you to be one that advocates for the dogs and horses of Maine who have no voice and vote against LD 1220, An Act Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids ensuring their protection, wellbeing and welfare.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Dr. Caitlin Daly