

Karilyn Bonney
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LD 1220

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

My name is Dr. Karilyn Bonney. I am an equine veterinarian, and I am testifying in opposition of LD 1220.

Human Chiropractors have absolutely no training in veterinary medicine. While they can ask a human what is wrong and collect information accordingly, they have no training in animal diagnostics which are profoundly different. Veterinarians go to school for eight years of higher education and earn a veterinary degree to be able to practice medicine on animals. A huge part of this training is learning how to perform tests to reach accurate diagnoses despite the animal's inability to tell us what is wrong. Musculoskeletal pain can be caused by a myriad of diseases which are completely unknown to chiropractors. They never know when they are misdiagnosing animals and delaying proper veterinary care that may be life saving. For example, selenium deficiency can present as muscle pain and without accurate diagnosis horses can die of selenium deficiency. Owners often do not understand and are not informed that chiropractors have no formal training in animal medicine.

There are a large number of zoonotic diseases that could also be missed and misdiagnosed thereby putting owners, their families and others at risk if chiropractors are chosen over proper veterinary care.

It is irresponsible to grant the privilege to practice medicine on animals to a group of people with no formal training. It is dangerous to animals, their owners and our community that we as veterinarians work so hard to serve and protect.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.
Karilyn Bonney VMD