

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

My name is Caleb Brown DVM. I am a resident of Monmouth; I am a large animal veterinarian, and I am testifying in opposition to LD 1220.

Veterinarians spend 8 to 12 years studying veterinary medicine. This prepares veterinarians to be the primary advocate for animals, it is what qualifies veterinarians to be experts in animal health and well-being. I strongly urge you to consider the advice of the experts who have dedicated their lives to protecting animal health. Veterinarians are warning you that allowing chiropractors to work on animals is dangerous.

Chiropractors who have completed the 210 hour course are already practicing on animals. We see this daily, and we see the negative effects of their work. The testimonies presented by the chiropractors promise they will refer troubling cases, they guarantee a working relationship with veterinarians; however, that's not happening. Chiropractors are not communicating with veterinarians, they are providing inaccurate information to animal owners and they are practicing outside their scope of knowledge. I see countless cases where owners have been incorrectly advised by chiropractors. I see just as many cases where the problem was not resolved with chiropractic manipulation or unfortunately got worse; yet I have not once received a call or referral from a chiropractor. Owners put their trust in these people not understanding that they have no training in animal behavior, neurology, diagnostics, lameness, internal medicine, infectious disease or pathology.

This is a unique example of a situation where we already know the outcome. Veterinarians are out in the field and on the clinic floor already dealing with this issue firsthand. Passing a bill to allow for such poor animal husbandry would cause detrimental consequences to animals, the owners and the veterinary industry. The more you chip away at the veterinary practice act the harder you're making it for veterinarians. If you want to ensure that you have veterinarians in the future, if you want to help create a positive veterinary industry and stop the veterinary shortage than take our advice when we warn you that allowing chiropractors to practice veterinary medicine is not ok.

Please considering the dramatic difference in humans versus animals and try not to project your experience with a chiropractor onto this situation. Humans can tell a chiropractor where it hurts, and what helps. Humans can tell them if they feel nauseous, weakness or dizziness. Animals cannot do that. It is not the same.

If you are worried about the ability to receive chiropractic treatment for an animal and think referral will be too costly or time consuming please remember that there are a fortitude of veterinarians who are certified to perform chiropractic manipulation and can offer this service all in one appointment.