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Testimony on
L.D. 1220, "*An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids*"

Presented by
Representative Robert A. Foley
District 145

Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee
Thursday, April 3, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and fellow members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services:

I am State Representative Bob Foley, and I represent the citizens of District 145, which is most of the Town of Wells. I'm here today to introduce L.D. 1220, "*An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids*," on behalf of the Maine Chiropractic Association (MCA).

This bill seeks to allow licensed chiropractors who are certified animal chiropractors with either the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA) or International Veterinary Chiropractic Association (IVCA) to provide chiropractic care to animals as long as the licensed chiropractor is certified to perform animal chiropractic care and meets other conditions specified in the bill. Much like the chiropractic acupuncture license, this is an additional chiropractic license.

The MCA and the Maine Veterinary Association have had conversations on this issue. The groups have both reached out to me with respect to the bill's details. There is additional work that needs to be done as the parties work collaboratively to improve the proposal's language.

From a policy perspective, we should recognize that animal chiropractic is happening with no statutory defined scope of practice and licensure.

The AVCA and the IVCA offer certifications in animal chiropractic. These are the highest standard of education in animal chiropractic. Only licensed doctors of chiropractic (DCs) and doctors of veterinary medicine (DVMs) are eligible for this certification.

In addition to a DC license, chiropractors would be registered as an animal chiropractic practitioner with the Board of Chiropractic Licensure and would maintain requirements, including certification and continuing education from AVCA or IVCA. They would likewise carry malpractice insurance.

There are others here to address the specific issues for animal chiropractic with the goal of respecting the scope and expertise of veterinarians and the complementary care that focuses specifically on the neuro-musculoskeletal system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.