

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

I am Lawrence Buggia, D.V.M., Certified Veterinary Chiropractor (since 1999) from Monmouth and I am testifying in opposition to *LD 1220, An Act Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids.*

As much as chiropractors want to pretend to be veterinarians, they are not veterinarians.

The welfare of animals and their owners depend on an accurate and complete diagnosis of any and all disease processes so that the correct treatment can be given.

Chiropractors are not trained nor equipped to accurately diagnose the diseases in canines or equines caused by prions, viruses, bacteria, fungal, protozoal, genetic, neoplastic, or traumatic diseases of the spinal column or the central nervous system which are often expressed with similar symptoms.

Chiropractic medicine is based on the concept of “subluxations” in the bipedal spine of humans. These “subluxations”, however, lack strong scientific support. In the case of quadrupeds, veterinary science has well documented through imaging such as X-rays, CT, PET, MRI, and ultrasound as well as postmortem findings all of the above-mentioned diseases as the pathological causes of cervical, thoracolumbar, and sacral pain, paresis, and paralysis. Chiropractic anecdotes are “cherry-picked” and plural anecdotes are not data. Veterinary medicine has the data to support these diseases of the canine and equines spinal column.

Chiropractors do not have the radiographic equipment nor sedatives required to obtain diagnostic X-rays.

The 210-hour course of instruction in animal chiropractic care required by this proposal is, in reality, a course on physical therapy which would not qualify them as primary care givers.

Chiropractors do not have the training nor practice experience to conduct thorough physical exams on animals. It would be impossible for them to diagnose contagious, infectious, zoonotic, or bioterrorism diseases. Their proposed 8-hour course will not replace a veterinary degree.

As in humans, cervical spine manipulation by chiropractors may potentially affect the canine vertebral arteries resulting in aneurisms or dissections. *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics* Vol. 27 Issue 9 Nov.-Dec. 2004 pages 539-546.

Since canines cannot tell chiropractors their degree of pain, thoracolumbar manipulation could result in a serious rupture of an intervertebral disc.

It is for these reasons I ask the committee to vote Ought Not To Pass on LD 1220. Thank you for the opportunity to share these remarks. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.