

Susan Chadima DVM, MS  
Topsham  
LD 2156

Testimony LD 2156 - Neither For Nor Against

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and Members of the Committee,

I am a small animal veterinarian in Topsham, and am submitting this written testimony, as I am unable to attend the Committee's public hearing in person.

I appreciate Representative Fay's introducing this bill to expand the availability and Provision of Emergency Medical Treatment for Certain Dogs.

My understanding is that the intent is to specifically increase access to emergency care for Law Enforcement Dogs in the absence of licensed veterinary personnel. For this reason, I request consideration under Section 1, that the Committee change "certain dogs" to "law enforcement dogs".

The Maine Veterinary Practice Act, Title 32, Chapter 71-A provides broad exceptions to veterinary licensure requirements as well as immunity from civil liability for individuals providing first aid, emergency treatment or rescue assistance to animals. This would apply to emergency medical persons.

Therefore, I encourage the Committee to consider removing Section 2 from the bill.

Practices and protocols used by Emergency Medical Personnel to treat law enforcement dogs will be most effective when developed with ongoing veterinary expertise and review provided to the Medical Direction and Practices Board. Maine will best be served if a veterinarian is a member of the Board for that purpose.

I thank the Committee for its hard work, and commitment to the health and safety to the animals as well as people of Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Chadima DVM, MS