

OHIO VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



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Testimony of Liesa Stone, DVM

House Bill 501

Ohio House Agriculture and Rural Development Committee

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Good afternoon Chairman Hill, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Patterson and members of the House Agriculture Committee. My name is Liesa Stone and I'm a veterinarian currently serving as President of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association. On behalf of the over 2,700 veterinarians and 500 veterinary student members of the OVMA, thank you for this opportunity to provide proponent testimony for House Bill 501.

As you know, this bill simply changes the title of a registered veterinary technician (RVT) to a registered veterinary nurse. The scope of practice and qualifications for this occupation will remain the same. While this change may appear minor, its impact is significant. RVT's receive specialized training from one of several veterinary technology programs throughout Ohio and across the country and have a continuing education requirement to maintain their professional status. These individuals are highly skilled and capable of performing a variety of duties within veterinary medicine.

For example, you can find RVT's drawing blood, taking x-rays, assisting with surgery, inserting catheters, counseling animal owners and administering vaccines, just to name a few of the important duties these individuals perform. Not only will RVT's gain acknowledgment of their important role in animal care, changing the title to registered veterinary nurse will provide clarity to clients and the general public. Their skills and knowledge though may often be misunderstood by the animal-owning public who are not familiar with the nomenclature of veterinary technician but do understand the role of nurses as partners in the healthcare team from their own healthcare experiences.

Animal care and wellbeing continue to evolve and change, and so has the typical veterinary clinic. Many of my well-experienced colleagues will tell you they started their practice without the assistance of an RVT. Now, new graduate veterinarians can likely not imagine a veterinary clinic without the assistance of an RVT.

My colleagues and I have a great deal of respect and admiration for registered veterinary technicians. We support changing their title to registered veterinary nurse and in doing so more accurately reflect their training, qualifications, and role.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 501. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.