



Senator Matt Huffman
12th District
S.B. 337 – Sponsor Testimony
Senate Agriculture Committee

Chairman Hackett, Vice Chair Hoagland, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 337, which would change the title of veterinary technician and corresponding references in the Ohio Revised Code to "registered veterinary nurse."

I am pursuing this legislation at the request of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA), which is seeking to standardize the requirements for veterinary technicians throughout the country and unify their title as "Registered Veterinary Nurse." Ohio is a particularly good state to start this effort since our current education and credentialing is very similar to an LPN and therefore, would only require a name change with no additional changes in the scope of practice or reporting authority. In other words, the NAVTA is hoping to elevate the rest of the country to Ohio's current education and licensure standards.

Accordingly, the only change this legislation makes is to update the name of the profession from "registered veterinary technician" to "registered veterinary nurse." There is absolutely no change in scope of practice, education, training, or credentialing. In fact, the bill specifically outlines this fact in its temporary law provision, which states "[i]n changing the term 'registered veterinary technician' to 'registered veterinary nurse,' this act does not change the scope of practice of, or the registration or certification credentials required for, such registered individuals."

Changing the name to "registered veterinary nurse" allows the public to be better informed as to the nature of this veterinary professional's training and experience. The more accurately descriptive title will allow Ohio's universities, community colleges, and career colleges who provide this degree to attract more students to their programs. Further, once the standards nationally are unified under this title, it will allow the registered veterinary nurses to utilize their education and degree in any state, while still allowing each state to regulate its own credentialing. In Ohio, the credentialing for the registered veterinary nurses will continue to be done by the Ohio Veterinary Medical Board. The Ohio Veterinary Medical Association and the Ohio Association of Veterinary Technicians support this legislation.

Member of the Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to speak in favor of S.B. 227. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.