



OHIO VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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May 27, 2025

The Honorable Tim Schaffer
Chairman, Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
1 Capitol Square, Room 137
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Written Interested Party Testimony on Senate Bill 60

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Koehler, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Ohio Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding Senate Bill 60, which would enable the use of telemedicine in the field of veterinary medicine in Ohio. My name is Christopher Henney, and I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA), which is the non-profit trade association that represents the interests of Ohio's veterinary professionals.

OVMA's involvement with this legislation dates to 2023, where we first had the opportunity to review and discuss the legislation with other interested parties. At this time, OVMA approached our membership and created an internal Telemedicine Task Force to assess our members' views on the various aspects of telemedicine. What we found was a very diverse set of experiences and opinions on the various benefits, challenges, and other considerations into how telemedicine would be implemented in the veterinary space.

Specifically, our membership expressed very diverse thoughts on the idea of utilizing telemedicine to establish what is called a "veterinary-client-patient relationship"; the basis of the actual practice of veterinary medicine. Current Ohio law does not permit anything other than an in-person visit to establish a VPCR, and Senate Bill 60 would authorize the use of telemedicine to do so.

Through the work of the Task Force, we also found that there were other areas that had a much broader consensus. Namely, risk of overprescribing of antibiotics and other medications, risk to the food supply, and unlicensed veterinarians practicing in Ohio. To that end, OVMA has also worked directly with the bill sponsors to include a shorter prescription limit before an in-person visit is required, prohibiting the use of telemedicine in the food production space (unless an in-person VPCR has already been established), and

ensuring that any veterinarian utilizing telemedicine to treat Ohio's animals be licensed by the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board.

For these reasons, we as an Association were able to move from an initial opposition position to an interested party position, also in recognition that our membership is represented on all sides of this debate. We would like to thank Senators Wilkin and Huffman for their work on this legislation and for incorporating fixes to these issues. If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher Henney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" and last name "Henney" clearly legible.

Christopher Henney, CAE
Executive Director