

Hello Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to you about SB60. If this bill comes to a vote before you, I ask that you vote against it. I am a veterinarian. As SB60 is written currently, it will not provide the intended outcome. The bill as written does not require the veterinarian providing telehealth to be able to provide in person exams, diagnostics, and only provides the option of prescribing treatment. We want animal and human health to be protected so why risk the potential for overuse of antibiotics?

Also local knowledge of what challenges our communities face is critical. We have had an outbreak of bird flu (H5N1) in Ohio which can affect livestock species as well as pets and humans. Having local knowledge is absolutely critical to protecting all our health. This is a serious disease, and we as local veterinarians work with our State Veterinarian (Dr. Dennis Summers, Ohio's Chief of the Division of Animal Health) to protect our local communities. SB60 as written would allow out of state DVMs that carry an Ohio license to be involved in diagnosing conditions that they are states away from.

In addition, our local veterinary practices are part of their local communities. They employ members of the communities and have a positive economic impact to these communities. SB60 as written puts these local businesses at a competitive disadvantage. I will also provide a link to the American Veterinary Medical Association's stance on the legal incompatibilities between this type of bill and federal law. SB60 as written provides direct conflict with the federal VCPR definition 21 CFR 530.3(i):

"The practicing veterinarian is readily available for follow up in case of adverse reactions or failure of the regimen of therapy. Such a relationship can exist only when the veterinarian has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal(s) by virtue of examination of the animal(s), and/or by medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal(s) are kept."

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/animal-health-and-welfare/telehealth-telemedicine-veterinary-practice/telehealth-and-vcpr>

<https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/product-safety-information/veterinarian-client-patient-relationships-prescribingdispensing-animal-drugs-and-telemedicine>

A viable solution to the issue of access to affordable veterinary care is investment in Protect One Health in Ohio (Protect OHIO) House Bill 96. Investment in this initiative is a viable solution to provide for more access to veterinary care for our local communities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Owen Mickley