

OHIO VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



1472 Manning Parkway • Powell, Ohio 43065

614.436.1300 phone • 800.662.6862 toll-free • 614.436.1301 fax

www.ohiovma.org • ohiovma@ohiovma.org

Ohio Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) Testimony

Jack Advent, CAE – Executive Director

H.B. 151

Ohio House of Representatives Health Committee

11/19/2019

Chairman Lipps, Vice-Chair Manning, Ranking Member Boyd, and Members of the Ohio House Health Committee my name is Jack Advent. I am the Executive Director of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA), an organization representing over 3,000 members practicing in a variety of disciplines within veterinary medicine. OVMA appears before you today as an interested party with some remaining reservations to H.B. 151.

Now you may be wondering why the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association is here to testify on H.B. 151. As introduced H.B. 151 did not impact the practice of veterinary medicine, however provisions in the substitute bill have changed that by altering current sections of veterinary law found in ORC Chapter 4741 relative to scope of practice.

A few days ago, we were made aware of proposed changes that would alter current law and allow a chiropractor with training and certification in animal chiropractic to provide those services without a veterinarian present.

As the professionals entrusted by society to provide medical care for animals, OVMA respects that other health professionals can play a role in the treatment of animals. To that end, during the last rewrite of veterinary law in 2006, OVMA worked with other health associations to provide a pathway for non-veterinary medical professionals to assist in the treatment of animals where appropriate. Current law allows an allied health professional including chiropractors to treat an animal when under the direct supervision of a veterinarian and with a veterinarian maintaining responsibility for the overall care and treatment of the animal. (ORC 4741.19)

With this background as context and being made aware that the current law is unfortunately not being enforced, OVMA was recently approached to engage in initial discussions regarding amending current law to allow for human medicine chiropractors who have been trained and certified to treat animals, a legal pathway to do so without direct supervision of a veterinarian. OVMA was and is open to that conversation but does believe until such time as it may be changed the current law should be appropriately enforced.

OVMA was presented last Wednesday with enabling language that was shared by the bill's sponsor, Representative Carfagna. Representative Carfagna was and has been extremely fair and open to our concerns over the past week. OVMA does not object to changes in the chiropractic law to allow an appropriately trained and certified Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine to treat animals without the direct supervision of a veterinarian, providing that appropriate "guardrails" are put in place.

Some of these changes have been addressed however keys areas of concern remain. They are:

- The two organizations listed in the substitute bill as training and credentialing entities may or may not be the only entities which should be recognized for training and certification. We have been made aware of at least one which is equal to if not more rigorous than the two listed. Authority should be given to add or remove entities by joint approval of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Licensing Board and the state Chiropractic Board. Language should clearly define how this joint approval would operate.
- OVMA also has concerns there is not language addressing the base parameters around diagnosis and treatment, provisions as to a penalty and enforcement, and language ensuring the client is fully informed that other non-chiropractic veterinary care is not authorized by this law.

In summary, the changes allowed for in the law are significant and warrant appropriate safeguards to ensure animal health, public confidence and preclude unintended consequences that may occur with a quick change in scope of practice issues. OVMA is appreciative of the options to provide input and remains committed to working towards a rational and reasonable approach to this issue when provided an opportunity to do so.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions.