



AULT CHIROPRACTIC

H U D S O N • B R I M F I E L D

June 3, 2020

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Proponent Testimony – House Bill 151

Chairman Burke, Vice Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on Substitute House Bill 151. My name is Dr. Rebecca Ault. I am a Doctor of Chiropractic, a Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician, and a Certified Animal Chiropractor. I own and operate chiropractic practices in Hudson and Kent, Ohio. I serve as the Vice President of the Ohio State Chiropractic Board and a member of the Health Care Quality Assurance Advisory Committee for the Ohio BWC.

Today I testify in support of HB 151, which provides animal owners direct access to certified animal chiropractors, like myself. HB 151 addresses three important factors regarding animal chiropractic:

1. Education requirements for Providers
2. Timely Access to Care
3. Unnecessary Financial Burdens to Consumers

HB 151 will enact the first ever education requirements for providers of animal chiropractic in Ohio. This bill will also distinctly define the scope of practice of a “certified animal practitioner” to specifically provide spinal and extremity manipulations. A certified animal chiropractor takes a course minimum of 210 hours (at least 135 hours of lecture and at least 75 hours of hands on work). These programs are taught by and available to both DCs and DVMs. To maintain this certification, 30 hours of continuing education is required every three years.

Current regulations put undue financial burden on animal owners and prevent them from accessing care in a timely fashion. HB 151 will decrease these barriers significantly by reducing consumer cost and allowing owners to access care by a trained professional in a timely fashion. Under the current law, consumers are required to coordinate and pay for two professionals to be in one location at the same time.

Here is the typical process for which a consumer must go through to gain access to animal chiropractic with myself. The owner calls my office to inquire about a chiropractic appointment for their animal. My staff goes over the process and associated fees. Before they can schedule, the owner must then contact their veterinary office to see if their DVM will come to my practice or the owner’s stable during my office hours to oversee care. Most DVMs do not have the time to make the trip to my office, meet me at a stable, or let me come to their clinic to oversee the care. At this point, the owner’s only option is to

contact a local vets office in Hudson that will accept my referrals. The owner must then schedule an appointment with the new vet for approval for chiropractic care. After an initial exam and approval of chiropractic care, the owner can then contact my office to schedule a chiropractic appointment with me at the new Vet's Clinic. Unfortunately, the normal wait time for an appointment can be up to 4-8 weeks, as both offices must coordinate the appointment. This system requires the owner to not only obtain a new vet, they also must pay two fees: one to the veterinarian and one to the chiropractor. Each consecutive treatment I render to the animal requires attendance of both the DC and the DVM.

I want you to consider the time constraints and the cost of trying to coordinate two doctors to be in the same location at the same time. This more than doubles the cost to the consumer and can make it almost impossible for a suffering animal to access care in a timely fashion. As an animal chiropractor, it has been wonderful to see the quality of so many lives improve with chiropractic care. It is worse to wonder what I could have done for these animals and owners who could not get timely access or afford the unnecessary financial barriers.

Just like with professional athletes, chiropractic care is also utilized to improve performance and recovery time in the animal athlete. Multiple professional dog associations and horse associations utilize chiropractic services. These associations and animal owners should be able to have access to these services, whether we are talking about an agility dog, conformation show animal, dressage, or working racehorse.

Many thanks to Representative Carfagna, the Ohio State Chiropractic Association, the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, and the Ohio State Veterinary and Chiropractic Boards for working together to reach agreeable language in this bill.

Thank you, Chairman Burke, for allowing me to testify in support of HB 151. I would be happy to answer any questions from your committee at this time.