

OHIO VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



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Ohio Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) Testimony
Jack Advent, Executive Director
Substitute House Bill 151
Ohio Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee

Chairman Burke, Vice-Chair Huffman, Ranking Member Antonio, and Members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee I am Jack Advent Executive Director of the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association. OVMA represents some 3,000 members practicing in a variety of disciplines within veterinary medicine. We appear before you today as an interested party to Sub. H.B. 151.

It is obviously a bit unusual for the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association to be testifying on a bill principally focused on chiropractic loan repayment. However provisions were added to the bill during the House Committee process which would alter current sections of veterinary law found in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4741 relative to scope of practice.

Those provisions would 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 OVMA worked with other health care 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)

While we understand the current law may be viewed by some as adding a duplicative step, the physiology of non-human animals is different and dual oversight was included in current statute to help protect and promote animal health as well as consumer confidence. To our knowledge it has not been a barrier to appropriate care either in access or cost.

With this background as context and also with the knowledge that the current law is unfortunately not being enforced, OVMA worked with the bill's sponsor and the Ohio Chiropractic Association at their request to allow for human medicine chiropractors a legal pathway to provide specific care to animals without the direct supervision of a veterinarian. As part of those conversations we requested the inclusion of various "guardrails" in the bill to help insure the appropriate care of animals. Also important are an enlightened animal owner who would understand the respective roles and distinctions of an animal chiropractor and a veterinarian in the care of their animal.

Representative Carfagna was extremely open, fair and understanding of the need for these important "guardrail" provisions. For chiropractors who wish to provide services to animals these include:

- Certification of appropriate training thru the accreditation programs of recognized entities in animal chiropractic care. These are the same entities that veterinarians who wish to offer specialization in animal chiropractic would attend.
- A disclosure statement provided by the chiropractor to the animal's owner reminding them they are not a veterinarian and cannot provide other forms of veterinary care,
- Asking the owner if the animal has been seen by a veterinarian in the past twelve months along with any known diagnosed medical conditions.
- Requiring the animal chiropractor to share treatment records with the animal's veterinarian upon request.
- Requiring the chiropractor providing care as an animal chiropractor to register with the Chiropractic Board and that such information be available to the public.

All of these provisions provide an important framework in which appropriately trained chiropractors can partner with an animal's veterinarian to provide treatment options. OVMA believes this pathway, if properly enforced, can serve as a reasonable approach for all concerned.

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