



Senator Steve Huffman
5th District
Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee
June 26, 2019
Senate Bill 131

Chairman Hoagland, Vice Chair Schaffer, Ranking Member O'Brien, and members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 131.

Senate Bill 131 would change the title of "veterinary technician" to "veterinary nurse" at the request of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA), which seeks to standardize the requirements for veterinary technicians throughout the country and unify their title as "registered veterinary nurse."

This bill would not change the scope of practice, education, training, or credentialing for veterinary technicians. In fact, Senate Bill 131 specifically outlines this fact in its temporary law provision, which states "[i]n changing the term 'registered veterinary technician' to 'registered veterinary nurse,' this act does not change the scope of practice of, or the registration or certification credentials required for, such registered individuals."

According to NAVTA, current education and credentialing for veterinary technicians in Ohio is very similar to that of a Licensed Practical Nurse. Essentially, NAVTA is hoping to elevate the rest of the country to Ohio's current education and licensure standards.

Changing the name to "registered veterinary nurse" allows the public to be better informed as to the nature of this veterinary professional's training and experience. The more accurately descriptive title will allow Ohio's universities, community colleges and career colleges who provide this degree to attract more students to their programs. Further, once the standards nationally are unified under this title, it will allow the registered veterinary nurses to utilize their education and degree in any state, while still allowing each state to regulate its own credentialing. In Ohio, the credentialing for the registered veterinary nurses will continue to be done by the Ohio Veterinary Medical Board.

Both the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association and the Ohio Association of Veterinary Technicians support this legislation. Additionally, this legislation passed the Ohio House of

Representatives in the form of House Bill 501 during the 132nd General Assembly, so it is my hope that the Ohio legislature will support it again during this General Assembly. Thank you again for the opportunity to offer testimony on Senate Bill 131. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.