

Konrad Jackson

From: Jeff and Angie Johnson [browndog@gci.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 4:13 PM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson
Subject: HB 139

Dear Representative Olson,

Thank you for your service to the people here in Alaska.

I am writing to alert you about Representative Wilson's bill HB 139 scheduled for committee hearing this Friday. I have practiced veterinary medicine throughout the state of Alaska for over 16 years, served on both state and national level veterinary committees, and now ask for your help to protect the high standards of veterinary medicine here in Alaska. This legislation will lower the standards for veterinary licensing here in Alaska. The bill will give a rotating 5 member board (Veterinary Medical Examiners) the power to change licensing qualifications at will. My colleagues and I agree that the veterinary licensing requirements should remain clearly presented in statute and not subject to manipulation by a board appointed by the Governor. There is no purpose in lowering veterinary standards to supposedly increase veterinary service to rural communities.

Representative Wilson clearly does not have a clear concept of proper veterinary care when she stated last year to the AKVMA Executive Committee that (...a bad veterinarian is better than no veterinarian in regards to care in underserved communities). I do not agree with this assertion by Representative Wilson. After working in many rural communities in Alaska quality veterinary care is necessary as I have seen the consequences of untrained individuals attempting veterinary care.

This bill is bad for veterinary medicine and for Alaskans. Please defeat this bill unless you would prefer that professional standards be diluted and undermined, thus allowing the public and animals to suffer the likely consequences.

Regards,

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