

Konrad Jackson

From: Nelson Priddy [drpriddy.vsoa@ak.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 4:56 PM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson
Subject: HB139

Dear Rep. Olson,

I am communicating to voice my opposition to HB 139. This proposed legislation seeks to alter the standards of veterinary licensure in Alaska. As proposed, this legislation would lower the standards for veterinary licensing in Alaska and it would give the rotating 5-member board (i.e. the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners) the power to change licensing qualifications at will. The veterinary licensing requirements should remain clearly presented in statute and not subject to manipulation by 4 veterinarians and a lay person. For those individuals who did not earn their veterinary degrees from American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-accredited veterinary schools, Alaska statute currently recognizes the standards put forth by the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG). That is a standard that is high and ensures that those who meet such standards will be qualified to provide appropriate care for animals. Accepting another standard risks jeopardizing the high quality of veterinary care that Alaskans can currently trust.

Rep. Peggy Wilson desires this legislation as an effort to increase the number of veterinarians serving rural communities in Alaska. Those communities deserve the same high quality of veterinary care as any other community in Alaska. Lowering the standard of veterinary care for rural communities is not a worthy service for those citizens. Additionally, lower veterinary licensing standards or even altered veterinary licensing standards will not ensure that veterinarians will choose to practice in rural Alaska. Luring veterinarians to practice in rural Alaska is an issue more complex than merely lowering or altering licensing standards.

As a citizen of Alaska and a practicing full-time veterinarian, I respectfully request that you review this legislation critically and then oppose it because it is not in the best interest of the citizens of Alaska.

Respectfully,

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