

Konrad Jackson

From: Aurora Animal Clinic <auroraanimalclinic@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 1:48 PM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson
Cc: Rep. Reggie Joule; Rep. Alan Dick
Subject: HB 251

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

February 16, 2012

Dear Representative Olson and the members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee,

I am writing to you to express my opposition to HB 251 as well as to express my dissatisfaction with the hearing (or lack thereof) that was scheduled for February 15, 2012.

As a professional as well as a business owner, I took time out of my busy day and turned away business so that I could participate in yesterday's scheduled hearing. I wanted my voice to be heard rather than just be another name and opinion on a piece of paper that gets passed around. I am insulted that my time apparently means nothing to your committee and am now unable to attend the rescheduled hearing for Monday. I also understand that there were people that travelled from Anchorage to Juneau to attend the hearing in person. I half suspect that this scheduling problem was an intentional slight to keep the busy veterinary community from testifying in person. And government wonders at why they can't get more public input? Perhaps it is because when the public attempts to provide input, they get turned away because it is too inconvenient for the government to work late. Private industry does not have that choice.

As a veterinarian licensed and practicing in the state since 2000, I have several concerns about HB 251. Ultimately my concerns boil down to the feeling that the passage of this bill would seem to negate the purpose of having a veterinary examining board at all. The board and the current licensing process exist to protect the public and their animals. For a veterinarian with proper credentials and appropriate advanced planning, it is not too difficult of a process to obtain a temporary license to practice in Alaska, whether it is a rural setting or not. If a veterinarian is practicing sub-standard medicine in any venue, the ability of the board of veterinary examiners to take disciplinary action protects the public and this bill takes away that protection.

I am a highly trained individual and worked hard to earn my credentials. I am astounded by the language in Sec 08.98.122, lines 7-9, that a person may "use a description, title, abbreviation, or letters in a manner or under circumstances that induce the belief that the person is qualified or licensed to practice veterinary medicine". This to me is a form of fraud. If a person did not earn a DVM (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine), then they do not have the right to call themselves a DVM.

I highly suspect that this bill was written with no consultation or consideration of the Alaskan veterinary community. I hope that as an alternative to HB 251, the committee could open up a forum for discussion with veterinarians in Alaska to see what we could all do to serve both our rural and urban communities better.

Sincerely,

Barbara J Cole DVM
AK# 456
Aurora Animal Clinic

1651 College Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907 452-6055
auroraanimalclinic@gmail.com

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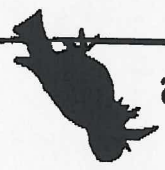
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Barbara J Cole DVM
AK# 456
Aurora Animal Clinic

1651 College Rd
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907 452-6055
auroraanimalclinic@gmail.com

raven veterinary service



RECEIVED
FEB 15 REC'D

Jeanne Olson, DVM

holistic medicine • acupuncture • chiropractic

phone/fax: 907/488-2906

To: Representative Kurt Olson, Chairman
Labor and Commerce, Finance Committee

Fr: Jeanne Olson DVM
Raven Veterinary Services
1890 Hollowell Rd
North Pole, AK 99705

Dear Representative Olson:

As a licensed veterinarian in Alaska since 1988, I am providing public comment to you regarding HB 251. I suspect that you have received a significant amount of input willing to listen to public input and consider this bill. However, I believe this bill, while well-meaning, is misguided and flawed in its content.

I work as a veterinarian in the Fairbanks area in my own clinic, but have also had many opportunities to work in the rural (often remote) areas of Alaska. I have also volunteered in other less fortunate countries such as the Territory of Guam and also in Romania. I am also part of the organizing members of the fledging non profit group, Alaska Rural Veterinary Outreach, whose purpose will be to provide quality and affordable veterinary care to the rural areas of Alaska. Regardless of where I am, I always strive to practice good medicine and put the motto of "above all, do no harm" foremost for the patients. I hope that all my colleagues agree that we should practice the best we can wherever we are.

Yes, the rural areas have limited resources and the description of "standards of care" are quite different than many "city" veterinarians would accept. This bill no doubt was created because of the criticisms and difficulties that Dr. Eric Jayne encountered from some of his colleagues and the Board of Veterinary Examiners. But, this Bill will not help promote veterinary care in the Bush in positive way. In fact, I agree with most of the contents in the letter you received from the Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association.

There is one detail in this bill of which I fully endorse. That is the provision to require any complaint to be filed under oath. I have been on the receiving end of three investigations by the Veterinary Board during my career. How they are handled by the Investigator and the Board are dependent upon their personalities and their interpretation of the policies. The veterinarian under investigation is basically guilty until proven innocent and often is left hanging in limbo, unable to provide any input nor receive any details under the Investigator deems it appropriate. And, that is often months after the initial complaint is served upon the veterinarian. Having your career left in limbo, while

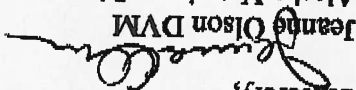


you are still able to practice, is, at best, agonizing. No doubt, that is what ultimately led

Dr. Jayne to abandon his Bush veterinary practice.
When I first received my license in Alaska, the content of AS. 08 (the practice of veterinary medicine) filled just a few pages. Since then, there have been more and more provisions included in an attempt to conform to most of the other states' veterinary statutes. This is unfortunate, since Alaska is really not like the rest of the states. I don't know the best way to resolve the issues that this proposed Bill attempts to fix. But, the wording of this Bill is not the solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Jeanne Olson DVM

Alaska Veterinary License #253

Konrad Jackson

From: P S <alaskapams@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 1:04 PM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson
Subject: Regarding rural vet care

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Unless Bill 251 is passed, the rural villages of Alaska will not have adequate veterinary care. Please vote yes on 251.

Thank you

Pamela Samash

Nenana and Fairbanks Alaska

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

Konrad Jackson

From: Taylor Kennel <taylor.kennel@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 11:15 AM
To: Rep. Alan Dick
Cc: Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Craig Johnson; Rep. Mike Chenault; Rep. Steve Thompson; Rep. Lindsey Holmes; Rep. Bob Miller
Subject: Fw: Please support HB 251 or villages will not have access to veterinary public health care

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Representatives,
Dear Representatives,

This is Richard Taylor. I am an Alaskan Native, asking for your endorsement of HB 251, to ensure that Rural Alaskans have access to veterinary care.

In October 2011, the Alaska Federation of Natives voted for the creation of a rural veterinary board because the existing Alaska Veterinary Board has failed to represent and meet the needs of rural Alaskans.

Without the passage of this bill, the villages will continue to go without life saving veterinary public health care.

Thank you,

Richard Taylor

Fairbanks, AK
907-456-4846

Konrad Jackson

From: Rep. Kurt Olson
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 12:35 PM
To: Konrad Jackson
Subject: FW: Please support House Bill 251 - Robin Scheff / Mobile Dog Trainer

From: Robin Scheff [<mailto:mobiledogtrainer@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2012 11:14 AM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson
Subject: Please support House Bill 251 - Robin Scheff / Mobile Dog Trainer

Dear Kurt,

Please support House Bill 251 to ensure that rural Alaska has access to veterinary care. Unless this bill is passed, the villages and remote areas of Alaska WILL NOT have adequate veterinary public health care.

Sincerely,
Robin Scheff
Mobile Dog Trainer
344-1333
Anchorage