

From: [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [Juli Lucky](#)
Subject: FW: SB 51/HB144
Date: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 5:04:23 PM

From: Kimi Ross [mailto:coppervalleyvet@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2017 2:38 PM

To: Rep. Neal Foster ; Rep. Paul Seaton ; Rep. Les Gara ; Rep. Jason Grenn ; Rep. David Guttenberg ; Rep. Scott Kawasaki ; Rep. Daniel Ortiz ; Rep. Lance Pruitt ; Rep. Tammie Wilson ; Rep. Cathy Tilton ; Rep. Mark Neuman ; Rep. Louise Stutes ; Sen. Lyman Hoffman ; Sen. Anna MacKinnon ; Sen. Click Bishop ; Sen. Peter Micciche ; Sen. Mike Dunleavy ; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof ; Sen. Donny Olson

Subject: SB 51/HB144

Dear Legislators,

My name is Kimi Ross. I have been an Alaska resident since 1997, living in the NW Arctic region of the state (where I was a teacher) and more recently in the Copper Valley area. I have had a recreational dog team, raised goats and chickens, and had house cats and dogs. Animals are an important part of my family.

As a Bush resident, and then as a rural resident, access to veterinary care was limited. Even as a teacher with income, finding the time and resources to get regular veterinary care was difficult, and often left me without a basic support system for providing for my animals, especially in the face of an emergency. While residing on the road system, vet care appeared to be more in reach, but in reality, the ability to establish a relationship with a veterinarian willing to serve as a resource was difficult and there were times my animals suffered as a result.

My experience with lack of vet care became a driving force for earning a veterinary degree myself. I graduated in 2016 and came back to the Copper Valley, where I am currently practicing. My perspective has changed from pet/animal owner to that of veterinarian and I have a better understanding of the cost of providing services in a rural area. Nevertheless, I am convinced that quality veterinary care can be provided, to start my own practice and try to address some of the needs of rural residents and improve the welfare of animals under their care.

I strongly support adding a *rural public member to the veterinary board, rather than a rural veterinarian*, as proposed in SB 51/HB 144. Veterinary regulations and issues impact everyone in the state and having a rural/Bush perspective on the board will help ensure the veterinary needs of rural residents are not overlooked. This is not only in the interest of animal welfare, but public health as well, as the potential for transmission of zoonotic disease is increased in areas where there is limited availability or access to veterinary expertise.

Sincerely,

Kimi L Ross

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"But ask the beasts, and they will teach you." Job 12:7

Kimi L. Ross, DVM

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