

Konrad Jackson

From: info [info@aesah.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 6:41 PM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson

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Dear Representative Olson:

We have been licensed veterinarians in Alaska since 1981 as well as practice owners and employers of other veterinarians. We are writing to you about Representative Wilson's bill HB 139 scheduled for committee hearing this Friday. We must ask you to defend the high standards of the veterinary profession by not passing this legislation. HB 39 would lower the standards for veterinary licensing in Alaska and it would give a rotating 5 member board (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 change by only 4 veterinarians and a lay person (all appointed by the Governor).

As we understand it the reason for proposing this legislation is to increase the service to rural communities. Last year in a phone conversation with the AKVMA Executive Committee, Rep. Wilson stated (referring to underserved communities), *"Isn't a bad veterinarian better than no veterinarian?"*. There is no logic in the premise that lowering veterinary standards will increase service to rural communities.

This bill is bad for veterinary medicine and bad for Alaskans. It would lower professional standards and allow the public and animals to suffer the likely consequences. Please defeat this bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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