

Konrad Jackson

From: Lea McWilliams [akvet@alaska.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 2:23 PM
To: Rep. Kurt Olson
Subject: HB 139

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Representative Olson:

I'm writing to alert you about Representative Wilson's bill HB 139 scheduled for committee hearing this Friday. I have practiced veterinary medicine in Alaska for 20 years and now must solicit your help to defend the high standards my profession requires. This legislation 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. I, and many other Alaskan veterinary professionals, agree that the veterinary licensing requirements should remain clearly presented in statute and not subject to manipulation by 4 veterinarians and a lay person (all appointed by the Governor). As well, there is no logic in the premise that lowering veterinary standards will increase 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?"** I (and my peers) do not agree with this assertion.

This bill is bad for veterinary medicine and bad for Alaskans. If you would prefer professional standards be diluted and devalued, allowing the public and animals to suffer the likely consequences, this legislation will provide the framework for just that. Please defeat this bill.

Thank you for your service in representing your constituents.

Sincerely,

Lea McWilliams, D.V.M.