

SENATE ~~BUSINESS & INDUSTRY~~ Agriculture
EXHIBIT/NO. 12005 12
DATE 1/5/05
BILL NO. SB22

I find Senate Bill No. 22 to be very disturbing in that any lay person can perform equine massage therapy on any horse. What is more disturbing is that in this day of increased litigation, the senate would not want to protect the consumer, even when it involves animal issues. Ultimately, when a consumer is deceived by an individual who claims to have expertise in a particular field, the consumer loses. The state should try to protect consumers from fraud or fraudulent acts.

- Human massage therapists are trained to work on humans who stand upright on two feet versus a horse that stands on all four feet. The function of a horse is very different from the function of a human. To treat a horse as a human on all fours should be considered malpractice.
- The consumer is at risk when any individual can claim that they have training in a particular field, such as equine massage therapy, without some kind of permit or license that verifies the validity of that training.
- There is a fine line between what constitutes a massage versus practicing chiropractic medicine. What would prevent an individual from performing chiropractic procedures and calling it a massage?

I ask that you seriously consider defeating this bill. To pass such a bill, opens the door to allow any individual to perform a procedure on an animal without proper training. Licensed individuals (veterinarians, veterinary technicians, etc) are held accountable for performing procedures on animals. This bill basically gives the public at large a free hand in performing "therapy" on an animal without being accountable to anyone. It is simply malpractice to allow any untrained individual to perform such a procedure.

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