

HB 133 Proponent

Mr. Chairman and Committee members:

For the record, my name is Dr. Jean Lindley (L-i-n-d-l-e-y), a veterinarian practicing in Miles City Montana for 26 years, and I am currently serving on the Board of Veterinary Medicine. I am speaking on behalf of the Board of Veterinary Medicine today, and urging you to recommend passage of House Bill 133 which provides for the practice of animal chiropractic by chiropractors and veterinarians. These changes are found in section 12 and sections ~~19-24~~<sup>14-19</sup> of the bill.

Several years ago, the Veterinary Board was made aware of the public's need for access to chiropractic care for animals, as there was an outcry over access to the veterinarians in Montana who perform chiropractic procedures.

As a result, the Veterinary Board spearheaded an effort to come up with a solution that would benefit the animal-owning public, yet protect the public at the same time. The Montana Veterinary Medical Association, Montana Chiropractic Association, and the Montana Chiropractic Board were contacted, a task force was formed, and over several meetings the proposed legislation in front of you today was crafted. Practice acts from several other states were studied in order for the task force to determine what would work best in Montana. The outcome, as reflected in this legislation, would allow Montana-licensed veterinarians trained in animal chiropractic and Montana-licensed chiropractors with specific national training on animals to perform animal chiropractic.

Any fiscal impact will be absorbed by current staff and resources.

Thank you for your time and again, on behalf of the Board of Veterinary Medicine, I urge a "do pass" on HB 133. I would be happy to answer questions.