

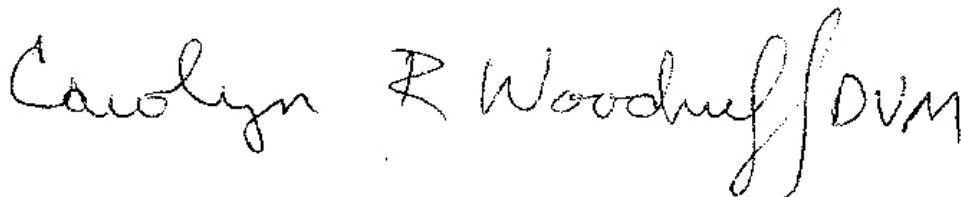
Honorable Members of the Agriculture Committee,

I am Dr. Carolyn Woodruff, a rural mixed practitioner with 47 years of experience working in North and South Dakota. I owned and operated Knife River Veterinary Clinic in Beulah from 1997 through 2024. From 2013 through 2023 I was a member of the North Dakota Board of Veterinary Medicine (NDBVME) and president of the board for 4 of those years. During that time it became very evident that the current practice act was outdated in many areas and lacking in relevant guidelines for the board to follow in some areas. I became an advocate for updating the practice act and involving the North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association (NDVMA) of which I was and am currently a member.

For the last 4 years the board has spent innumerable hours discussing, researching and editing proposed changes to be submitted to the legislature. The NDVMA has been included and consulted throughout the process. During the house committee hearings amendments were made to address concerns from many parties who gave testimony. The wording was carefully examined for clarity. I believe that this bill will serve to assure competent veterinary care for the population of ND, both animal and human. It allows for use of telemedicine which will increase access to care. It provides for the board to handle cases of impaired practice, similar to other professions. It will allow increased use of veterinary technicians, providing a higher level of care and availability of services. I encourage you to support SB2129 in the amended form which was given a unanimous do pass from the Workforce Development Committee in the house. They have done an incredible job of listening to all concerns, negotiating solutions and producing an improved bill. Although I am not a current member of the NDBVME I have followed the preparation, editing and progress of this bill throughout. I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have about the bill. In conclusion I strongly support SB2129. A careful balance is required to protect the needs of the public, individual veterinarians and the animal population. I believe SB2129 will provide that balance.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn R Woodruff DVM". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn R Woodruff DVM