

Senate Workforce Development Committee

Senate Bill 2129

Andrew Alexis Varvel

Written Testimony

Chairman Wobbema and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel. I live in Bismarck.

Please either vote **NO** or convert this legislation into a study resolution.

I don't normally look at veterinary medicine. However, when I found out that the State Board of Veterinary Examiners is attempting to substitute its own professional standards over and above existing accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association, I have become concerned. If this is an attempt to replace classical veterinary practice with “complementary, integrative, and alternative therapies”, this will need to be studied thoroughly before the criteria for acceptable credentials for veterinary medicine become fundamentally changed.

Please look at page 19, line 20.

It talks about “immoral” conduct. This is vague concept. For example, while I personally regard declawing of cats (onychectomy) to be highly immoral, this practice is unfortunately legal in North Dakota at present. So, it would be inappropriate to penalize a veterinarian for doing it.

If the professional standards for veterinarians need to be amended, this should be turned into a study resolution. Otherwise, please vote **NO**.

Thank you.