

Greetings Mr./Madam Chair, members of the Committee, I'm Kathrin Volochenko of the Nonpartisan League.

To begin with, I see no Senators are sponsoring this bill, and instead, a committee of unelected persons is attempting to dictate the rights of all the small & large animal veterinarian practices in North Dakota.

I question this bill's validity as it wasn't generated by or from any of our dutifully elected officials. I didn't realize that a bill could be introduced by anyone other than a Senator or House representative.

Assuming that this bill is indeed valid, I shall continue.

As a former beef producer and current pet owner, I can easily see that this is a very dangerous bill that, if passed, will undermine the right of any veterinarian to practice knowing that all it would take is just one frivolous complaint from a client to ruin that veterinarian's reputation potentially, have their license revoked and perhaps ruin that practice that that person has worked so hard for so many years to build.

There have been so many cases where I've sought veterinarian services for routine vaccinations, health checks, and surgeries to improve, preserve, and even save the lives of the many animals that I've kept over the years. I would be devastated if my veterinarians could no longer practice over some frivolous charges that have no merit.

Never mind that the client may have some mental or personal issues that, in essence, take out their aggression on the veterinarian and or the vet assistant.

If this bill were to become law, we as pet owners and livestock producers could see our veterinarians and their practices become in essence, an "endangered species" in North Dakota.

I request that this committee bring "SB2129 bill" to the floor, if it even gets back to the floor, as I question its validity, with a "**Do Not Pass**" recommendation.

In closing, this bill requires much more thought and input from veterinarians, food animal producers, animal owners, and various animal welfare groups, and turn it into a study with sponsorship from one or more of our legislators.