



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 88</b>		DATE: <b>2/23/2023</b>
COMMITTEE: <b>Agriculture Policy</b>		
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>arniedienoff@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2023 11:01 PM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

**I am in Support of this Bill and its Change in Definition for Animal Chiropractic Treatment and Relief Provided.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DR. MELISSA GEORGEVITCH, DC</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2023 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DR. TYLER STAHLMAN</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>tyler.stahlman2017@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2023 9:37 AM</b>

**THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.**

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and the members of the committee, My name is Dr. Tyler Stahlman, I am here today in support of HB 88 and to inform. As a chiropractic physician, I have completed 8 years of education, at Logan University and Options for animals which is a chiropractic institute for animals. I am certified in animal chiropractic by the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association. During the animal chiropractic program, I worked alongside veterinarians, and even helped the veterinarians learn how to adjust, how to feel for vertebral restrictions, mobilize joints, palpate structures and look at biomechanical analysis not just from a lameness standpoint, but from a chiropractic viewpoint. As a practitioner I work with veterinarians and am in communication with them before, during, and after a chiropractic session. We often work on cases together when lameness has been ruled out, but unsoundness of movement is still present. We bounce ideas off one another and come up with a treatment plan that is best for the care of the animal and owner. I value the veterinarians' recommendations and knowledge, as do they value my expertise. All the veterinarians that I've worked with have expressed that they do not want to sit and watch me work while I have the proper education to do the profession that I am trained in, and they do not. The current law states that chiropractors need direct supervision from a veterinarian in order to perform care and treatment. This makes scheduling appointments extremely challenging and my treatments far less thorough as the appointment time must work for myself, a vet, and the client. Veterinarians have their own practice and clients to get to as well as emergency calls that often come in so waiting an hour for me to complete a typical treatment session on a horse is next to impossible. The animal and the owner then suffer with a shortened, unfinished session. The animal is also often subjected to a longer duration in pain and abnormal compensation and movement patterns, leading to further injury in the future. Veterinarians are restricted in their ability to get to horses in need and there is a decreased income on the days that the vet must wait for me to finish my job, while they could be at another farm generating revenue for their small business. The agriculture industry has a need for chiropractic care, when physical performance is lacking in their animals, due to pain or an overall decrease in performance. When this happens, as it often does, the farmers of Missouri are left unable to complete the tasks needed to support their business. If they do seek out help from an Animal Chiropractor, their business ends up suffering financially as they now must pay for a veterinarian to be present as well. The same applies to other small businesses like animal rescues and animal training facilities. This becomes even more disastrous when the client has already paid the vet to come out, with no significant findings, referring to a chiropractor to have their animal looked at, then to have to pay the vet to come back out again. This makes follow up appointments for me as a chiropractor impossible since the client has now had to pay multiple times for the vet to come out. I consider the current law a waste of time and valuable experience to other needed clients. I carry a greater knowledge from a chiropractic standpoint on treatment of the animals due to my educational experience. As a chiropractor I look at

musculoskeletal conditions in relation to performance and biomechanics movements. I do not treat or claim to treat conditions in which a veterinarian is needed. If a horse needs allopathic care or is not improving after a treatment of chiropractic care, they are referred out to their veterinarian. This is called an integrated practice, in which all professionals work together for the well-being of the animal. Just like veterinarians work with farriers. I envision a care scenario where there is communication with the vets, we know the animal has had a standing relationship with their veterinarian, and that there are no major pathologies. If on an examination I see or feel something needs attention that I cannot help with, then a referral is made to the animal's veterinarian to get their needs met. The change in law allows the animals to get the care they need in a timely manner with an expertise and experience needed by a board-certified animal chiropractor. If there is a thought that chiropractors will miss an underlying medical issue, then that's what a referral is for. If there is an underlying issue such as a urinary obstruction or bone tumor, there are other signs and symptoms that would be present in the animal suggesting a greater need than chiropractic care. In which, we learn about in human chiropractic school and animal chiropractic school. The current law states that there can be no physical changes made to a horse. This would also reach to the extent of trainers, farriers, animal nutritionist, and other individuals partaking in modalities without any proper training or animal education. Yet, there is no issue with vets not being present when trainers are training horses and farriers are shoeing horses. Nor should they have this restriction for the reasons I listed earlier. In my opinion, I find the fact that chiropractors are being governed by the veterinary board to be outrageous. Especially since the creators of animal chiropractic were the founding fathers of chiropractic, Founders DD Palmer and BJ Palmer in the early 1900's. To my knowledge, this is the only profession in which there is physician to physician direct supervision, excluding practitioners that are out of state. Human MD's do not directly supervise Doctors of Chiropractic. So why would veterinarians supervise DC's. The current law is detrimental for small business owners and reduces income. The law is detrimental to animal care, it's bad for farmers, bad for small government, it keeps Missouri in regression, instead of moving forward, like a number of other states have already progressed on this same topic.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>ERIN LOOMIS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>edloomis@ucdavis.edu</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2023 8:05 PM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>			

Mr. Chairman and the members of the committee, I am writing in support of house bill 88, which by changing the current language of the law, will allow for the independent practice of animal chiropractic medicine by the licensed chiropractic professional. I am writing from the perspective of both a veterinarian licensed in Missouri and as a horse owner. As a veterinarian, I have no reservations about licensed animal chiropractors providing chiropractic care to animals. It would, in fact, be my preference that chiropractors provide that care. While the training for both professions does overlap, I have received little to no training in chiropractic medicine. From discussion with colleagues from various veterinary training programs, this seems to be the norm. There is certainly no time spent on practical application of chiropractic treatments during veterinary training. It is known that those with a specific interest in adding chiropractic techniques to their practice should complete additional training and certification through the Animal Chiropractic Association. Without that additional training, I personally would not attempt to provide chiropractic care to my own animals, nor would I ask any of my veterinary colleagues to do so. That additional training and certification is completed by chiropractors practicing on animal patients. It is therefore unclear to me what the benefit of direct supervision by the average veterinary practitioner would be. It would not be a good use of my professional time to monitor a chiropractic professional doing what they are specifically trained to do. If it is to prevent malpractice or negligence by the chiropractic professional, that is already the domain of the chiropractic licensing board. Because chiropractic care is complementary to various treatments provided by the veterinarian, the availability of a chiropractic practitioner is highly valuable. My current hospital employs a chiropractor to administer chiropractic treatments. Her availability allows for better management of post-operative, obese, painful and neurologic patients. Animals at our hospital can become patients of both the veterinary department and the chiropractor. As a result of our access to a chiropractic professional, we have improved patient outcomes, client satisfaction and client retention. I am particularly lucky to have access to an in-house chiropractor, but this is very rare. Most clients must find chiropractic care outside of a veterinary clinic setting. This is especially true for equine patients who typically remain at their own barn and receive both veterinary care and chiropractic care from ambulatory practitioners. Limiting chiropractors to direct supervision by a veterinarian, drastically limits that client's ability to access care for their animal. From the perspective of a horse owner, it is fairly difficult to precisely schedule a veterinary visit due to the nature of ambulatory equine practice. I have personally waited over three hours to meet the vet for my own horse. It is logistically very difficult to have both a chiropractor and a veterinarian at the barn at the same time. In summary, chiropractic medicine and veterinary medicine are distinct, yet complementary professions, each with their own domains of expertise. There is benefit to both the veterinary profession and the public of increased access to animal chiropractic care. Limiting the practice of animal chiropractors to direct supervision by a veterinary professional will limit their availability and consequently this benefit.

Furthermore, the animal chiropractor that is deemed sufficiently trained to practice their profession by the state, does not need the supervision of a member of another profession. It is an unnecessary and wasteful use of the veterinarian's time. I encourage you to amend the language in the bill to allow for the independent practice of animal chiropractic medicine by the chiropractic professional. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Erin Loomis, DVM



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>JAMIE SWEET</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>Jnskubal@gmail.com</b>		ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2023 12:19 PM</b>

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I am in support of the HB 88 bill. I support this due to a number of reasons as an owner in the equine industry. The approval of this bill means a major cost savings for me, as well as time management and over all satisfaction with services. Paying for a veterinarian to be on site with an approved chiropractor gets extremely expensive to pay both parties. To be paying for a veterinarian to stand around and watch is not only a waste of my money, but also of a veterinarians time when they could be doing other appointments. There is also the scheduling side of things to take into account. It is extremely hard to set up an appointment with both a veterinarian and chiropractor when emergency calls come up as well as scheduling a chiropractor from out of town and taking into account travel. This is something that I do not always have the privilege of having time in my own busy schedule to arrange. In passing this it will save me time in my extremely busy schedule to arrange one less meeting that could be canceled at the last second. It is also important to take into account when both the vet and chiro are free I may not be free to be there as well. This is another scheduling hassle that can cost me visits that my horse needs. Lastly the over all satisfaction of services. Taking into account all the above points I am normally feeling agitated that it has limited my ability for my horse to receive the treatment needed. I am fully in support of my horse receiving his treatments by a veterinarian approved chiropractor. In doing this all parties receive a better overall satisfaction from more services.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>JESSICA COOKE</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>636-439-3096</b>
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>YUPPY PUPPIES FOREVER</b>		TITLE: <b>RESCUE DIRECTOR</b>
ADDRESS: <b>814 HONEYWOOD</b>		
CITY: <b>LAKE ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63367</b>
EMAIL: <b>yuppypuppypetspa@hotmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2023 10:38 PM</b>

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My name is Jessica cooke and I am the owner of Yuppy Puppy Pet Spa and Director of Yuppy Puppies Forever Rescue. We are a holistic pet care facility and rescue. We believe in bettering an animals life in every way. Through spa treatments, nutrition, oxygen baths, massage therapy and chiropractic care we have seen an improvement in day to day lives of our rescue dogs who were under the care of veterinary care and these chiropractic appointments using massage, stretches, exercises , and routines have made drastic improvements when traditional medicine through medication or surgery was not improving mobility or quality of life. A rescue French bulldog that was three years old named Rudy had a spinal injury that was an old injury and surgery could not be done and several veterinarians said he would never walk again. After his visits with Dr. Tyler Stahlman we began to do the exercises and routines that he showed us and he began to make more improvements than he had in 4 months. It has been one year since his adoption date and the adoption family continues his routines and now Rudy not only walks, he runs, and his quality of life is continually getting better daily all because of chiropractic care that we believe made all the difference. Jessica cooke



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LINDSEY CULVER</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:		SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2023 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LORI KOSTBADE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>loribethwood1@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/21/2023 4:18 PM</b>
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I urge you to add Animal Chiropractic care as an option for our pets and livestock. If we limit access to having a choice of animal chiropractic care we could be limiting mobility and deterring overall health benefits that can be noticed with this type of supplemental care. Performance animals such as horses or dogs work very hard at their jobs and deserve the opportunity to thrive beyond basic veterinary and animal husbandry care. Chiropractic care is routinely covered as a benefit for people on their insurance as a possible modality of treatment. We should have this option for the animals that we are stewards for and in our care.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>REGISTERED LOBBYIST:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>LYNNE SCHLOSSER</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>913-461-8724</b>
REPRESENTING: <b>MISSOURI CHIROPRACTIC PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE:
ADDRESS: <b>1521 PEPPERWOOD DR.</b>		
CITY: <b>ST. LOUIS</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>
		ZIP: <b>63146</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2023 12:00 AM</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARY CATHERINE CROSS</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>cathiecross@yahoo.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2023 9:36 AM</b>
<b>THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.</b>		

I am Owner of Horse training facility in New Melle Missouri and firmly believe my horses and dogs have benefited greatly using our animal chiropractor . He had been able to fix so many issues and lameness with our animals that had been seen by a veterinary doctor with no explanation as to why our animals were unsound and having issues with their movement . Our chiropractor was able to see the problem and fix the problem when our Veterinary Doctor had no answers except to keep injecting steroids into joints that did not need injections Injections are invasive and can actually cause great harm to a horse One of my imported horses was injected in a joint and it caused laminitis which eventually caused her to founder. This is very serious and could have been avoided has we taken a different approach to her lameness. Chiropractic care has since resolved so many issues with our horses and is non invasive ! Our farm could not have success with our show horses if not for our chiropractor.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>MEGAN GRAESSLE</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>megan.graessle22@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>In-Person</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2023 11:28 PM</b>	

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My name is Megan Graessle. I have received a bachelor's of science degree in animal science from the University of Missouri, Doctorate in Chiropractic from Palmer College of Chiropractic - Florida, and board certified through the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association for the specialty of animal chiropractic care. I am licensed through the State of Missouri and through the State of Colorado where direct access to animal chiropractic care for Chiropractors is approved. I am in favor of House Bill 88. Current law requires a veterinarian to be onsite of a Chiropractor licensed in animal chiropractic care for the treatment of a vertebral subluxation, a misalignment of the vertebral column leading to dysfunction or pain, in animals. This oversight is impractical and unnecessary due to the high demand of both highly skilled and licensed medical professionals. This law leads to the ideology that animal chiropractic care is the sole responsibility of a veterinarian trained in the practice of veterinary medicine. I have worked in a veterinary office and have seen the long hours they provide for primary care for animals. Animal chiropractic care is an upcoming profession that provides a noninvasive, conservative approach to animal care with a positive economic outlook due to many individuals caring deeply for their animals. Chiropractic care provides ease of movement, reduction in tension, and decrease in pain as many of us are aware of ourselves. Requiring a veterinarian to be present or require a referral for this treatment will not only add to the work overload of veterinarians, but will also prevent an animal in need from being treated by licensed animal chiropractors. Everyday we read about the high demand of veterinarians and the shortage in not only the rural areas of Missouri but all across the state. Allowing an animal chiropractor to practice and utilize their skills without the oversight of a veterinarian not only benefits the animal chiropractor, but also serves to address the shortage of veterinarians. It allows the veterinarian to serve animals as their primary care provider while allowing chiropractors to evaluate and adjust animals solely for chiropractic misalignments. To become an animal chiropractor one has to have a veterinarian degree or chiropractic degree prior to admittance to an accredited animal chiropractic program. This level of education and training qualifies chiropractors to provide animal chiropractic care. With many states such as Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Colorado allowing direct access to both medical professions. A topic of concern is liability of chiropractic care for animals. With being currently licensed in a state with direct access I am able to utilize my malpractice insurance of \$1,000,000 - \$3,000,000 for animal chiropractic care. NCMIC and other chiropractic insurance agencies will cover animal chiropractic care for chiropractors if the state they are practicing in permits them to do so. Direct access for chiropractors to practice chiropractic care is in favor for both the chiropractic and veterinarian profession to ensure the integrity of their license is maintained by their actions alone. Key points: Direct access allows licensed professionals to provide chiropractic care to animals in the scope they are board certified in as chiropractors and veterinarians. Direct access allows the provider to be solely responsible for the liability. Direct access allows for chiropractic care to be accessible to animals in a more affordable and accommodating

**environment with the high demand veterinarians have as primary care providers. In conclusion chiropractic care began through the chiropractic profession, and every chiropractor is trained in the understanding of a chiropractic misalignment or vertebral subluxation complex. This law encompasses solely the scope of chiropractic care and allows both skilled professionals to practice their same board certified education of chiropractic. By passing this law constituents of your district will be able to bring their animals to receive chiropractic care by the licensed professionals of their choice.**



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SONJA MCDANEL</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>SUSAN ROECKER, DC</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>BRUCE WHITTLE, DVM</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>brucewhittle@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2023 8:18 PM</b>
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I would like to comment on House Bill 88 which would allow licensed human chiropractors to perform chiropractic procedures on animals without veterinary supervision. I have been a practicing veterinarian in Trenton, Missouri for over 28 years and though we do not personally perform any chiropractic procedures at our hospital we have worked with some licensed chiropractors in the past to provide chiropractic procedures on patients at our hospital, as currently allowed by the Missouri Veterinary Practice Act. This has been after we have performed an examination of the patient and determined that the animal did not have a condition that needed traditional medical or surgical treatments and that chiropractic could be a helpful adjunct therapy on that specific patient. My first concern is that the bill basically removes all oversight of chiropractic procedures performed on animals. This means the owner of an animal would have no recourse in the event of a malpractice claim since, though an individual licensed by the State of Missouri as a Doctor of Chiropractic could perform a procedure on an animal, this act would not be covered under either the Missouri Board of Chiropractic Examiners or the Missouri Veterinary Medical Board. While I am concerned about over-regulation, I do understand that licensing of certain professional activities serves to ensure that the public is protected from those who are unethical or incompetent, an idea which legislators in Missouri in the late 1800s and early 1900s thought was enough of a concern to establish licensing of medical professions. Passage of this bill, as written, takes all protections off of animal owners in the State of Missouri who seek chiropractic care for their animals. The reason for my concern is knowledge of some specific cases in which chiropractic care has been applied on animals outside of the current regulations with poor outcomes. In the cases I am aware of, an appropriate diagnosis by a veterinarian, based upon a thorough exam that includes much more than just a musculoskeletal evaluation, should have resulted in appropriate therapy rather than potentially harmful therapy or a delay in proper therapy. My wife, also a veterinarian, was presented with a patient by the wife of a licensed chiropractor. In this case he could legally work on his own animal as that is exempted in Section 340 of the Missouri State statutes. He treated the dog with chiropractic manipulation of the lumbar spine for 2 weeks with no improvement but instead worsening of the dog's signs. When the dog was presented to my wife, after an examination of the patient she determined that the dog's problem was not related to pathology of the lumbar spine but instead was due to an intervertebral disc lesion in its neck. Once treated appropriately, the dog did make a recovery but had to endure 2 weeks of unnecessary pain before that appropriate treatment was initiated. I am aware of other cases in which an animal has experience a bone fracture through the use of chiropractic that was either applied with too much force or based on an inaccurate diagnosis. In a case such as this, if the animal required surgical repair of a fracture at a specialty veterinary hospital, the bill would likely total over \$2000 up to over \$6000. The owner would have no recourse against the chiropractor, other than civil prosecution at the county level if they could get the county prosecutor interested in the case, even though the

licensed chiropractor would basically be endorsed by the legislature of the State of Missouri as long as they met the minimal additional education requirements to work on animals. If the practice of chiropractic in animals is to be exempted from the practice of veterinary medicine, it needs to be covered under the Missouri Chiropractic Practice Act. This would require the bill to include statutes within the Chiropractic Act that detail the roles and responsibilities of a licensed chiropractor performing chiropractic procedures on animals and stipulate recourse for investigation and potentially discipline by the Missouri Board of Chiropractic Examiners in the event of a client complaint. I believe House Bill 88, if passed as is currently written, will result in some animal suffering and adverse consequences to the animal owning public in Missouri. Having worked with numerous scope of practice issues in the past, I think it would be wise to further explore the issue before enacting any legislation that could be harmful to the animal owning public. Thank you for your consideration.  
Bruce Whittle, DVM



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM**

BILL NUMBER: <b>HB 88</b>		DATE: <b>2/23/2023</b>	
COMMITTEE: <b>Agriculture Policy</b>			
<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CINDY VEDDER, DVM</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-636-8612</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>DOCTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>2500 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2023 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>TESTIFYING:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>CLIFFORD J. MILLER, DVM</b>		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>greenhillsvetclinic@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/22/2023 9:37 PM</b>	
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As a mixed animal (seeing all species) veterinarian the creation of a Veterinary chiropractic practitioner causes concern for several reasons. First and foremost would be the health and welfare of the individual patients. HB 88 would allow for a human chiropractor with approximately 5 weeks of training in animal chiropractic to “exam, diagnose, and treat” veterinary patients without veterinary oversight. There are far too many disease processes to list here that could present as presumptive back or joint pain that would not only not be benefited by chiropractic manipulation but in fact could be detrimental. While the bill stipulates that this new formed practitioner could treat through “spinal, joint, or musculoskeletal manipulation” it is both not practical and not possible for someone to learn all of the possible causes of pain in a multitude of species in the 210 required hours. Missouri already has well laid out laws that allow for a human chiropractor to perform chiropractic manipulation under the supervision of a veterinarian (just as any other allied profession is allowed to do). The other major concern, and that which government bodies are mandated to protect is the public. In this instance not only would public safety be put at risk but the liability protection would not be in place. I will start with the concern of public health. There are several individual patient disease processes that may present with back, joint, or musculoskeletal symptoms but may be zoonotic infectious diseases that can spread to humans. Anyone have muscle and joint pain with Covid? How about Brucellosis which may present as back pain in a dog, but can cause lifelong debilitating disease in humans (and is easily transmitted). As for protecting the public in regards to liability: the Missouri Veterinary Medical Board would have no governing authority over a licensed Chiropractor and conversely the Missouri Chiropractic Board of Examiners would have no authority over someone treating animals. This bill has no allowance for an oversight body to protect the public from malpractice and bad players. The other major, glaring concern for the public is the insurability of practitioners. If a new entity is formed and this is no longer deemed “veterinary medicine” it opens the door for malpractice insurance to not cover animal chiropractic and thus put liability and risk on individual and or animal owner as insurance could deny coverage. I will close by saying that supporters will argue that my examples are rare and would not usually be a problem and I can’t disagree, however, the purpose of the current law is to protect against these rare examples and ultimately protect the animal patients and their owners and insure the best possible outcomes for all. How do we do that?: we keep the current statute which allows for chiropractic treatment under the supervision of a veterinarian and after an exam and diagnosis by a veterinarian under a valid veterinary-patient-client relationship.



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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>DAVID WILSON</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-636-8612</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>DOCTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>2500 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>			
<b>BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:</b>			
WITNESS NAME: <b>LYNN MARTIN, DVM</b>		PHONE NUMBER: <b>573-636-8612</b>	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: <b>MISSOURI VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION</b>		TITLE: <b>DOCTOR</b>	
ADDRESS: <b>2500 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE</b>			
CITY: <b>JEFFERSON CITY</b>		STATE: <b>MO</b>	ZIP: <b>65109</b>
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2023 12:00 AM</b>	
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<b>WITNESS NAME</b>		
<b>INDIVIDUAL:</b>		
WITNESS NAME: <b>MARTHA SCHARF</b>		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE:      ZIP:
EMAIL: <b>mesdvm@gmail.com</b>	ATTENDANCE: <b>Written</b>	SUBMIT DATE: <b>2/23/2023 12:15 PM</b>
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I have training as a veterinarian and a chiropractor. I have been an equine veterinarian for 15 years and done chiropractic for 5 of those after attending a training course and obtaining IVCA certification. To perform correctly, animal chiropractic involves an extensive knowledge of anatomy and physiology. Animals are not only significantly different from humans but also from each other. Further, they can be afflicted by a range of pathologies that are unique from humans. Dogs, cats, horses, and farm animals are all significantly different. The sizes and shapes require extensive knowledge of where to apply force and how much is safe. They are also horizontal, quadrupedal animals, different than upright bipedal humans. There are significant concerns that courses for lay people and for human doctors of chiropractic fail to comprehensively address the extensive breadth of knowledge necessary to understand all possible pathologies of an animal. For those with poor chiropractic training, the force applied can injure an animal severely, leading to problems including ligament disruption, dorsal facet inflammation, bruised muscles, fractures, joint luxation, paralysis, and death. While some of the DCs can equal or exceed the training in chiropractic manipulation, none rivals the education of a veterinarian in animal pathology. There are so many diseases that can mimic the symptoms of an animal with chiropractic needs. And many of these are also catastrophic if treated incorrectly. As a practicing veterinarian, I am regularly brought many patients for chiropractic that would preferentially benefit from other sports medicine therapy and occasionally for conditions that are not musculoskeletal at all. Some owners bring the horse to try something alternative without any real sense of what's wrong. Without a holistic diagnosis and approach, these horses are not receiving appropriate treatment and risk worsening of their conditions. Even worse, they could be spreading disease that is harmful to other animals or even people. Properly performed, chiropractic can have systemic benefits but it also carries systemic risks to the animal if applied incorrectly. Chiropractic adjustment not only requires proper diagnosis of a problem (which falls within the scope of veterinary medicine) but also determining the usefulness of chiropractic over other possible therapies. It was emphasized in my veterinary chiropractic training that animals with actual medical or surgical conditions should be treated with conventional veterinary medicine. The role for chiropractic also often that of prevention or rehabilitation by assisting in restoration of normal neuromuscular and musculoskeletal function. It also should be considered that veterinary chiropractic by non-veterinarians would not have a governing body. This leaves little recourse or protection for the animal and owner. No standard is set for standard of care or quality of their treatment. I believe damage will come to animals in the wrong hands. Finally, I think the precedence of opening the veterinary practice act should be strongly considered. This could open the door to considerably more harm to come to animals with lay breeding, dentistry, and other diagnoses and treatments. We already see suffering animals at the hands of non-veterinarians even with legal recourse. Without, no standard of care will exist to protect these patients. I firmly believe this change will legitimize incomplete or substandard

**care for animals and strongly oppose the change. Thank you for your time**