



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 1881		DATE: 2/19/2026	
COMMITTEE: Health and Mental Health			
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES			
WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: CONNIE KLOPPE		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written		SUBMIT DATE: 2/16/2026 8:39 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			

See above statement



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: DAVID A. WILSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-823-9407	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION		TITLE: VETERINARIAN	
ADDRESS: 6621 E BASS LN			
CITY: COLUMBIA		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65201
EMAIL: wilsonda@missouri.edu	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 2/18/2026 7:54 PM	
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**Support of HB 1881
Protecting Public Health While Preserving Veterinary Access to Xylazine**

Missouri is facing two realities at the same time.

First, illicit xylazine — a veterinary sedative never approved for human use — is increasingly being found mixed with fentanyl and other narcotics. It has now been identified in all 50 states. When combined with opioids, it significantly increases overdose risk and creates severe medical complications. This is a serious and growing public health concern, and it demands a strong enforcement response.

Second, xylazine is an FDA-approved prescription veterinary drug that has been safely used in the United States since 1972. It is a non-narcotic sedative, analgesic, and muscle relaxant that is absolutely essential in veterinary medicine — particularly in a major agricultural state like Missouri.

Veterinarians rely on xylazine every day to safely sedate cattle, horses, and other livestock. It is critical when:

- Performing C-sections on cows
- Correcting uterine torsions
- Treating hoof and leg injuries
- Dehorning or disbudding calves
- Immobilizing injured livestock for humane euthanasia

There is no practical alternative for sedation in cattle. Without xylazine, both animal welfare and human safety are at risk. Handling a 1,500-pound animal without proper sedation is dangerous for the veterinarian, the producer, and the animal.

The veterinary community does not take the drug epidemic lightly. In fact, discussions with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration helped lead to the introduction of the bipartisan Combating Illicit Xylazine Act in Congress. That federal legislation would give the DEA stronger tools to combat illicit trafficking while preserving veterinarians' access to this FDA-regulated drug.

It also includes enhanced tracking of legitimate orders through the DEA's ARCOS system to detect

suspicious purchasing patterns — a safeguard not normally required for a veterinary sedative like xylazine. And it increases penalties for diversion from the legal supply chain.

This balanced approach is important because the veterinary supply chain is fragile. There are currently only two manufacturers of xylazine for veterinary use in the United States. It is a low-volume generic drug with minimal profit margin. We understand that one manufacturer has already paused production pending regulatory clarity, and at least one major distributor has stopped supplying states that have scheduled xylazine. That reportedly leaves only one manufacturer serving the entire U.S. market.

If states create a patchwork of inconsistent regulations, manufacturers and distributors may exit the market entirely. That would not stop illicit trafficking — but it would remove a critical tool from Missouri veterinarians and livestock producers.

HB 1881 gives Missouri the opportunity to align with a coordinated federal enforcement strategy while protecting animal welfare, producer safety, and our agricultural economy.

This is not a choice between public health and veterinary medicine. We can — and must — do both:

- **Crack down on illegal trafficking**
- **Increase penalties for diversion**
- **Track suspicious distribution patterns**
- **Preserve access for legitimate veterinary use Missouri agriculture depends on it.**

I respectfully urge your support for HB 1881 and for alignment with the federal Combating Illicit Xylazine Act. The Missouri Veterinary Medical Association stands ready to work with you to protect both public health and animal welfare.



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: LINDA HAFLEY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/17/2026 7:13 AM	
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