

# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

September 3, 2024

The Honorable Ben Hansen  
Health and Human Services Committee  
Nebraska Legislature  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Chairman Hansen:

The Department of Health and Human Services' statement on the explanation of effectiveness of the animal therapist license, below, reflects its sole views. The question has also been sent to the Board of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery and its response will be forwarded should they choose to opine.

If the occupation was not regulated, currently, only an individual credentialed as being able to provide veterinary care could provide this care to animals. It would limit access to care for owners of animals covered by the statutes. There is no reason to expect public health harm from regulating this profession.

Licensees have demonstrated that they have met education and examination requirements. There have been 32 animal therapist licenses issued since 2009 and no disciplinary actions. The requirements appear to be sufficient to effectively regulate this profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "TIMOTHY A. TESMER".

Timothy A. Tesmer, MD  
Chief Medical Officer