

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 veterinarian 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.

Veterinarians provide protection to the public by treating animal disease which could impact the public through direct contact with live animals or through consumption of meat. The care provided by veterinarians also protects the investment of the public in their animals, whether it be a companion animal, an animal that participates in competition, or a food producing animal.

If veterinarians were no longer licensed, the citizens of Nebraska would not be assured that veterinarians would provide quality care for their animals. The current regulatory structure provides standards for education and examination which help to ensure the public that the veterinarian meets minimum standards to provide care to animals. Unlicensed individuals would not have legal access to drugs and other medications to provide proper treatment for animal diseases, ailments, and injuries, posing greater risk to the animals and to the health and safety of the public.

The care provided by this occupation is available across the state and is based on standards on education and practice set in both statutes and regulations. The kind of care they provide is important to the protection of the health of both animals and humans and requires extensive knowledge and education to be done safely and competently. The disciplinary actions listed earlier in this survey represent the appropriate actions taken by DHHS to address violations of the law in this profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy A. Tesmer, MD".

Timothy A. Tesmer, MD
Chief Medical Officer