

**Kimmi Lewis**

---

**From:** Richard Habighorst <habigdoc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 8, 2017 4:15 PM  
**To:** kimmi.lewis.house@state.co.us  
**Subject:** Vote Yes SB 135

Dear Representative Lewis:

Recently, the Senate passed (34 – 1) SB 17-135, which is to remove the Veterinary Medical Clearance requirement for a dog or horse to be adjusted by a licensed, insured, certified and registered with DORA Animal Chiropractor. This bill is now headed over to the House Agriculture, Land & Natural Resources Committee for your review and approval.

Previous language has caused undue burden on animal owners and animals seeking chiropractic care and must be changed.

As Senator Kevin Lunberg indicated during discussion of the Bill, “This is a good bill to address wrinkles in the old bill that didn’t make much sense. As a human and you want to go to chiropractor, you go to a chiropractor. You don’t have to go to your primary doctor to be referred on. But if your pet needs treatment you have to go through your veterinarian to get the referral and that doesn’t make sense. It makes more sense so the people of Colorado can decide which licensed professional to take their animal to for the treatment.”

This legislation has the support the following organizations:

1. Colorado Farmers Union
2. Rocky Mountain Quarter Horse Association
3. Colorado Saddlebred Association
4. American Veterinary Chiropractic Association
5. International Veterinary Chiropractic Association
6. Colorado Chiropractic Association
7. International Chiropractic Association

8. International Pediatric Chiropractic Association
9. Countless animal owners and numerous veterinarians across the State of Colorado

I am asking you to please vote "YES" on SB 135. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Habighorst

2039 North Fork Drive

Lafayette, CO 80026

# RMQHA

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION

Colorado Senate Agriculture Committee Members

February 16, 2017

RE: SB 17-135

Dear Members:

As individuals involved in a wide range of equine disciplines, and as an organization representing those individuals, we support the removal of the requirement that a licensed veterinarian first give approval for the use of a licensed chiropractor prior to treatment of a horse for chiropractic issues. For this reason we strongly encourage you to vote for the passage of SB 17-135.

As owners and trainers, we are in tune with the medical needs of our horses. Their care and comfort is of utmost importance to us. We fully understand when there is a need to engage a licensed veterinarian to diagnose and treat an issue. But, many times, we know that treatment by a licensed chiropractor is more appropriate. Issues such as a horse slipping and falling may cause discomfort that is best resolved with chiropractic treatment. Even simple things, such as the horse being poorly shod, can cause misalignment of the back, hips and vertebrae causing the horse major discomfort. Such problems may not be resolved with treatment by a veterinarian, but instead may require chiropractic treatment. Licensed equine chiropractors will not hesitate to refer a horse on to a veterinarian if they feel the horse needs additional medical treatment or diagnosis.

It is beneficial to the equine community to allow licensed chiropractors to attend the many equine events held in this state, and to be available if a horse needs a treatment prior to or after its performance. Restricting the treatments with a requirement of a veterinary referral does not address the timely needs of the horse.

This bill will only benefit our equine partners, allowing caring custodians of these animals to move forward with the most appropriate treatment of an injury in a timely manner. We would like to encourage the Senate Agriculture Committee to approve this bill so it can move through the process and become law.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Membership of Rocky Mountain Quarter Horse Association

*22 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 101, Brighton, CO 80601 – 303-659-7752 – Email: [Office@RMQHA.com](mailto:Office@RMQHA.com)*



*Recognized as the World Leader in Animal Chiropractic*

# AMERICAN VETERINARY CHIROPRACTIC ASSOCIATION

February 6, 2017

Re: SB 17-135

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello, my name is James Israelsen, DVM. I am a licensed veterinarian practicing in northern Utah, and am the current head of the Legislative Committee for the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA). As a representative of the AVCA, I am writing to encourage the passage of SB 17-135, removing the requirement that an animal owner must obtain "veterinary medical clearance" from a licensed veterinarian before their animal can be adjusted by a chiropractor who is registered with the state board as an animal chiropractor.

The AVCA is a professional membership group promoting animal chiropractic to professionals and the public, and acting as the certifying agency for doctors who have undergone post-graduate animal chiropractic training.

The Certification Program is developed and operated by the Animal Chiropractic Certification Commission (ACCC), a certification body of the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (AVCA). The ACCC promotes the highest standards of competence and safety in animal chiropractic care for the protection and benefit of the patient as well as the public. AVCA is the primary national credential for this field in North America.

It is the view of the AVCA that animal chiropractic is best performed by those who are trained to do so. It has long been the goal of our organization to promote the practice of safe, trained, and effective animal chiropractors. An AVCA-certified practitioner (either a veterinarian or a DC) is the most safe and effective individual to perform such adjustments.

One of the stated objectives of any state regulatory board is to protect the public from individuals practicing treatment modalities for which they are not trained. It is our opinion that requiring a veterinary medical clearance before an animal can be adjusted by a state-registered animal chiropractor actually may endanger the public and place an unnecessary burden on the animal owner.

The current state law places no stipulation that the veterinarian issuing the veterinary medical clearance even have any knowledge of the practice of animal chiropractic, and few veterinarians in Colorado do. Thus, most veterinarians can make no realistic assessment as to the appropriateness of an adjustment, and may, in fact, delay authorizing an adjustment that could be of great help to the animal. We feel that the current state law is the equivalent of requiring a person to attain authorization from their MD to seek complementary therapies such as chiropractic care, nutritional counseling, massage therapy, or even fitness training.

---

442236 E 140 RD • BLUEJACKET, OK • 74333

PHONE: 918-784-2231 • FAX: 918-784-2675

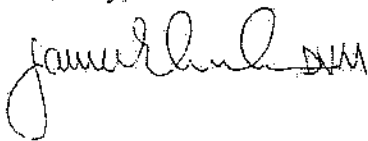
WWW.ANIMALCHIROPRACTIC.ORG

By requiring a chiropractor who has trained in adjusting animals to ask an individual unfamiliar with chiropractic care to authorize such care, the state regulatory boards risk driving individual animal owners away from practitioners desiring to practice within the law to completely unregulated and unlicensed individuals willing to adjust without obtaining veterinary medical clearance. The law as currently written could serve to drive the practice of animal chiropractic underground, and actually discourage trained individuals from registering as animal chiropractors with the state of Colorado. It is our opinion that removing the stipulation of "veterinary medical clearance" from the current statute provides a common sense resolution of this concern.

The AVCA has always required its members to abide by the laws of the state in which they practice. Part of an individual's re-certification requirement with the AVCA is to attest that they are practicing within the laws of their individual state or province. Our certified practitioners also are required to meet vigorous continuing education requirements to remain current on state-of-the-art care. We feel that this makes them the best option for the public in obtaining animal chiropractic care. We strongly encourage the passage of SB 17-135 to further this goal and improve the lives of animals and their owners in the state of Colorado.

We are more than happy to consult further in this matter if desired. Thank you for the opportunity to support this important cause.

Sincerely,



James E. Israelsen, DVM  
Legislative Committee Chair  
American Veterinary Chiropractic Association

JJ/ljm



March 2, 2017

The Honorable Vicki Marble  
200 East Colfax  
Room 346  
Denver, CO 80203  
**Re: Colorado SB 135**

The Honorable Kimmi Lewis  
200 East Colfax  
Room 307  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Senator Marble and Representative Lewis:

The American Chiropractic Association (ACA), based in Arlington, Virginia, is the largest professional association in the United States representing doctors of chiropractic (DCs). ACA promotes the highest standards of ethics and patient care, contributing to the health and well-being of millions of chiropractic patients. On behalf of its members, ACA lobbies for pro-chiropractic legislation and policies, promotes a positive public image of chiropractic, supports research, provides professional and educational opportunities for doctors of chiropractic, and offers leadership for the advancement of the profession.

The ACA has long recognized the exclusive authority of a state to define the practice privileges for doctors of chiropractic providing professional services. At the same time we have always maintained that such practice privileges should not be interfered with through the imposition of medical or other referral requirements. We believe that chiropractic is an integral part of the overall health care delivery system and that doctors of chiropractic must function in that system as equal and full partners with other health care providers consistent with their state scope of professional practice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David A. Herd, DC'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. David Herd, President



## Animal Chiropractic Education Source

To Whom It May Concern:

We believe that removal of the requirement of referral by a veterinarian should be passed. Licensed chiropractors who are registered to perform Animal Chiropractic in the state of Colorado have completed a minimum 210 hour course on what is and more important for this bill, what is not Animal Chiropractic. The licensed veterinarians in the state have completed more hours in veterinary medicine but have never had a single lecture on what is and what is not chiropractic. It seems to make little sense to require a referral from a licensed professional of any sort regarding a treatment they know nothing about. Veterinarians who have not completed a similar course on chiropractic in animals have no idea what chiropractic is, how it works and what modalities constitute a chiropractic adjustment. By contrast, chiropractors who have completed a course accepted by the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies have had extensive information on what illnesses and injuries require a veterinary diagnosis.

Dr. Amy Hayek, DVM, Co. VET-0006744

Dr. Wm. J. Ormston, DVM, Co. VET-0007245





# OPTIONS *for* ANIMALS

COLLEGE OF ANIMAL CHIROPRACTIC

State of Colorado

February 14, 2017

To The State of Colorado

Options for Animals College of Animal Chiropractic is writing this letter in reference to the legislation regarding the practice of Animal Chiropractic in the state of Colorado.

There is an extensive animal chiropractic education available to Doctors of Chiropractic and Veterinarians provided by three approved programs in the United State as well as Canada, Germany, and England. All of these programs are approved and regulated by two associations - The American Veterinary Chiropractic Association and the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association. The standards of education is closely monitored by these two boards.

The requirements that must be maintained by the programs are:

All school must allow both professions to attend the course thereby encouraging and supporting the understanding, skills and responsibilities of these two professions as well as develop lifelong relationships in the spirit of working together in order to provide the best health care for animals. The hours of education in total is a minimum of 210 hours with specific hours in the following categories. Chiropractic science, Veterinary science, Anatomy, Neurology, and Chiropractic treatment methods. The programs are required to have Doctors of Chiropractic and veterinary medicine on their faculty that have not only completed their chosen doctorate but have completed a recognized program and passed one or both of the association examinations.

Options for Animals College of Animal Chiropractic is the oldest and original Animal Chiropractic School in the world. The school and the curriculum was started in 1988 by Dr. Sharon Willoughby DVM, DC. She was the first individual to earn both a doctorate in Veterinary medicine as well as Chiropractic. She realized it was absolutely imperative that both veterinarians and chiropractors be educated in this profession. Her vision for the Animal Chiropractic profession was that it would not survive without the knowledge, skills, and dedication of these trained doctors who would provide Chiropractic care to the animals of the world.

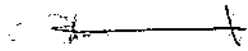


As the current owner of Options for Animals I respectfully ask the State of Colorado to consider allowing the two professions who have completed their education of Animal Chiropractic to have the ability to practice with equal cooperation. Therefore, providing proper Chiropractic care to the animals in the state of Colorado.

I would also thank you and commend the government of Colorado for being willing to investigate and understand the education of Animal Chiropractic. We trust that a reasonable decision will be made to allow Animal Chiropractic to survive with both qualified veterinarians and chiropractors. While there are other states that have set up regulations for this profession, the state of Colorado may have the ability to influence other states by setting fair and reasonable laws.

Once again I thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,



Dr. Heidi Bockhold D.C.  
Co Owner and President of  
Options for Animals College  
Of Animal Chiropractic

LAW OFFICE OF TROY D. KRENNING, LLC

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW



TROY D. KRENNING

February 15, 2017

Hon. Senators  
Colorado Senate  
Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Energy

RE: SB17-135

I write in support of SB17-135 which would restore the rights of animal owners to make informed medical decisions for and on behalf of their animals. As this committee is aware, Colorado recognizes the ownership of animals as chattel or personal property. A long-standing axiom in our great State, indeed our Nation, is that government gives great deference to the rights of individuals in matters impacting their private property interests.

As an attorney that advocates on behalf of consumers in Colorado, I believe that SB17-135 is a consumer-friendly bill which not only protects consumers but also the animals under their care. The proposed elimination of requiring a veterinarian's prescription prior to obtaining licensed and qualified chiropractic care for an individual's animals will benefit Colorado consumers without jeopardizing the health or safety of any animal. The current statute already maintains a high bar regarding the qualification of any chiropractic doctor who may be called upon to provide aid and treatment to any animal that is brought to him/her for care.

The current statute adds an unnecessary and costly condition precedent to Colorado consumers who believe that chiropractic care will benefit their animals by requiring the consumer to exhaust time and money to obtain a "prescription" from a D.V.M., before obtain the chiropractic care for their animal. This provision is simply a solution in the hunt for a problem.

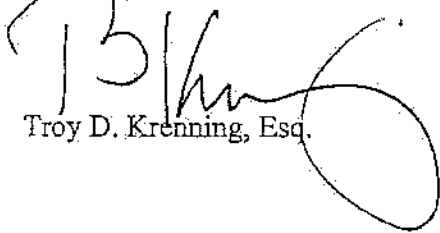
SB17-135 is also a bill that favors Colorado citizen property right interests. As stated, animals whether they be livestock that are raised for profit or pets that are adopted as members of one's family are regarded as private property under the laws of Colorado. Justice Richard B. Sanders (Washington State Supreme Court 1997) best summarized what government's view concerning the relationship between government and its citizens should be with regard to private property interests. Sanders wrote that "[p]roperty in a

*thing consists not merely in its ownership and possession, but in the unrestricted right of use, enjoyment, and disposal. Anything which destroys any of the elements of property, to that extent, destroys the property itself. The substantial value of property lies in its use. If the right of use be denied, the value of the property is annihilated and ownership is rendered a barren right."*

The current statute, which SB17-135 will amend, does in fact impose an unnecessary restriction on the right of a private property owner. It is unimaginable that the owner of an animal would seek out chiropractic care for an animal, believing that such care was not in the best interest of the animal. It is equally unimaginable that a licensed chiropractic care provider would act in any manner not consistent with the standards of care of their profession and act in a way that is not in the best interest of an animal.

Please pass this bill on for consideration by the honorable members of the Senate and House. On behalf of Colorado consumers and those who believe in the sanctity of private property rights, thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TK', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Troy D. Krenning, Esq.

**Southwest Equine LLC**

Ben Hufnagel DVM  
(970) 946-4550  
[horsevet@hughes.net](mailto:horsevet@hughes.net)

PO Box 1205  
Bayfield CO  
81122

To Whom is Concerned,

This letter is to document my support for bill SB17-135. I have been in veterinary practice for 20+ years and have been witness to the benefits that chiropractic treatment provides animals. It is my opinion that laws and regulations that place licenced animal chiropractors under the prescribing orders of licensed veterinarians are outdated and unnecessary. Feel free to contact me directly if more explanation is necessary.

Best Regards,



Ben Hufnagel DVM

BAKER'S BRIDGE VETERINARY CLINIC

970-247-4701



To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Brian Marshall DVM, MS and own Baker's Bridge Veterinary Clinic, a small animal veterinary clinic in Durango, CO. I am in support of Bill SB17-135 which is for removal of language in the law that requires veterinary medical clearance to have an animal adjusted by a licensed, trained and insured chiropractic doctor to adjust a dog or a horse.

Please contact me directly if you have any further questions: 970.948.8620

Cordially,

Brian Marshall DVM, MS

---

PAIGE MOTT <paigemott@msn.com>  
To: "vickimarble23@gmail.com" <vickimarble23@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 6, 2017 at 3:32 PM

Here is my testimony as an Animal Chiropractor:

My name is Dr. Angela Boyazis DC. I also a certified Animal Chiropractor and have also been certified by the AVCA. I am a highly educated doctor and found the written medical release unnecessary for access to animals. I am highly qualified in diagnosing subluxation and very regularly referred my patients out when I believed there was a need for their veterinarian. I do believe it's important to have communication with the Primary Care Veterinarian and would highly recommend open communication which would benefit both the animal patients and chiropractic education for the future. However I found most veterinarians do not know when to refer out for chiropractic. Also on a side note, by making it inaccessible to properly trained animal chiropractors by denying the release many of my potential clients sought chiropractic by an untrained doctor which further harms the animal and also the reputation me, a trained professional. I hope you consider placing harsher punishment on those who have not taken the required education to properly diagnose and treat animals and get the required licensing and malpractice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Angela Boyazis



February 8, 2017  
RE: SB17-135

To Whom It May Concern:

Good day to you. I am writing to you today to express my interest in the upcoming vote regarding SB17-135. This is the bill involving animal chiropractic care which would strike language from previous law requiring 'veterinary medical clearance' for an owner to seek chiropractic care for their horse or dog. In essence, the new wording would allow animal owners in Colorado the right to take their animal to a licensed, insured and properly trained animal chiropractor without the consent of their veterinarian.

As an animal chiropractor in the state of Colorado, I am in favor of my public servants voting 'Yes' on SB17-135 for the following reasons.

1. An animal owner should have the right to consult with and treat with whichever properly trained and licensed professional they desire without consent from another professional in a related field.
2. The animal owner should not have to spend valuable time, make their animal suffer longer and/or pay veterinarian's exam fees in order to be granted access to a licensed animal chiropractor.
3. The vast majority of veterinarians are not trained, certified, registered or insured to provide animal chiropractic care. Furthermore, the standard veterinary spinal consultation and exam is extremely different from that which licensed animal chiropractors are trained to do. Although veterinary assessment is valuable, it simply doesn't assess for findings that confirm whether or not chiropractic care is warranted.
4. At this time, all licensed animal chiropractors in Colorado utilize a referral form of some sort to record the veterinarian's consent in treating the animal. Perhaps the biggest concern is when the referral is not returned by the veterinarian to the animal chiropractor at all, sometimes after numerous follow-ups. It is unfortunate because while this occurs, an animal and their owner are at home suffering at the hands of this bureaucracy.
5. The majority of veterinarians I seek referrals from gladly authorize the chiropractic treatment. As the animal is treated, treatment notes are sent to the veterinarian to update their files. The majority of feedback I have heard from veterinarians is that the current wording of the law actually inconveniences them by having to receive, sign and return the referral. They would actually rather not have to do so, and instead, leave it to the state to verify an animal chiropractor is adequate to treat their patients.



February 8, 2017  
RE: SB17-135

I have been a licensed animal chiropractor in Colorado since 2012. Over these four years, I have repeatedly encountered the problems I have outlined in attempting to serve animal owners while following the law of Colorado. The wording of previous law has been inconvenient and down-right frustrating for myself, animal owners and veterinarians alike. Because of this, I ask that you vote 'Yes' on SB17-135. I thank you for your time and service in this matter.

Sincerely,

Steven V. Cook, DC CAC  
Steven V. Cook, DC CAC

2-8-2017  
Date



To Whom It May Concern:

I have been breeding, training and competing with dogs for over 30 years. Training in the venues of tracking, protection, and obedience, these dogs are athletes and like us humans sometimes need chiropractic adjustments. To have to get a veterinarians permission to take my dog to a chiropractor who is certified in animal adjustments is ridiculous and unnecessary. They are specialists in their field of chiropratic care for humans and animals and have a skill that is something our veterinarians cannot do. My dogs have benefited so much from chiropractic care and it has allowed them to continue in the work.

By having to get a referral, this delays the needed treatment they should be getting immediately. Please stop this requirement.

Sincerely,

Patty Bartley

NAISSUR'S BLACK RUSSIAN TERTIERS.

To Whom It May Concern:

In regards to SB 17-135, I am definitely an advocate for not needing a referral from a vet to seek Chiropractic care for my dogs. Chiropractic care is an essential part of caring for and doing what is best for my dogs.

I do not feel a referral from a vet is necessary before I can seek Chiropractic care for my dogs. I can see the difference chiropractic care makes in the health and well being of my dogs and a referral from a vet should not have to be a requirement before I can begin that important care. My chiropractor knows what treatments my dogs may need depending on their individual situation whether it be in response to an injury or just maintenance to help them feel the best they can. My chiropractor is more than qualified to start these treatments to aid in their well being.

Thank you  
Karen Benenati

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to share my experience obtaining chiropractic care for my dog, Harley. Harley is a 9 year old male Beagle who was hit by a car in December 2015 and who received chiropractic care from Dr. Paige Mott in the months following his accident. Harley responded very well to his care with Dr. Mott and we were beyond excited that he was back to his normal self (running, jumping on couch, jumping in car).

In 2016 (over a year since his previous treatment from Dr. Mott) I had connected Dr. Mott's office to bring Harley back in for chiropractic care since he seemed a little stiff in his movements and chiropractic had helped him previously. When I called Dr. Mott's office I was told that he needed a new release signed by his vet since it had been over a year since his last visit. This was inconvenient for a couple reasons: (1) Harley was not due for any check-ups yet still needed to be seen by the vet before they would sign off on any papers, and (2) it would delay him getting treatment since I had to wait more than a week for an appointment at the vet office. At the actual appointment with his vet I was shocked and frustrated at the amount of resistance that I received. To summarize:

- The veterinarian appeared very agitated and told me that she had no idea what the consent form was or why she had to sign it. Apparently, she had never had to do this for any other clients.
- She stated several times that she needed to call her lawyers to find out what it was about and what her legal obligation was.
- She stated numerous times that she did not want to sign the papers.
- She stated that if she signed the papers then she would be held liable for any harm caused to Harley by Dr. Mott.
- Even though Harley had x-rays on file from his accident, the veterinarian stated that she needed to take new x-rays to make sure there wasn't any damage. She did this at her own expense.
- She informed me several times that if Harley was in pain then I should give him pain medication. I informed her that chiropractic had helped him so much in the past that we wanted to pursue that avenue again for him. She stated (several times) that there was no research that showed that chiropractic was beneficial.
- It was very clear that this vet did not support chiropractic care for dogs. So clear that I finally had to ask her if she had a negative chiropractic experience herself and she admitted that she had.
- When the veterinarian left the exam room I asked the tech assistant if they ever recommend chiropractic for any of their clients. She responded that they did not and that the doctors didn't support chiropractic.

This entire experience was very frustrating and in my opinion, unnecessary. Not only did I waste more than an hour of my life, but Harley was unnecessarily x-rayed AND I had to fight for his right to receive chiropractic care. It is not right. Needless to say, we will not be returning to that vet office.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,  
Becky Flemming

March 2, 2017

To whom it may concern:

Kodiak's story is long in regards to his healing process due to an injury of being run over by a truck as a puppy. This irresponsible driver changed Kody's life forever. Flash forward ten years. He is becoming arthritic in areas that have plates in place or there was bone repair. As with my own family Chiropractic care was sought after to make his life physically comfortable during this progression of Arthritis. As I began to search for an Animal Chiropractor only to find out we are denied access to this care without first getting a prescription by a veterinarian.

Last year, April, Kodiak's face and neck starting showing signs of paralysis. He was struggling with eating, drinking, and was starting to develop a gagging type cough. My first instinct was to get him to a chiropractor, especially since his spine and composition needs to be checked out and these issues could very well be contributing to his problem. Thus, I am denied to go straight to a specialist in this regard. We took him to CSU Vet Hospital. They spent 4 hours and ran some tests with no conclusion, at a cost of \$500. As we were leaving with Kodiak with no treatment and no idea what was causing his issue a tick was discovered on his trigeminal nerve located on his neck!

Immediately I was upset that after this many hours the vet techs had not discovered this tick! My first thought was if I had been able take him directly to a Chiropractic practitioner they would have discovered it within ten minutes as thorough exam of the spine and body structure is part of their scope of examination in any situation. At this time, I asked to get a prescription to have Kodiak see a chiropractor. I was denied by the CSU Hospital Vet who had seen Kodiak was informed that I would have to pay another \$165.00 for a different vet department to examine him and consider this prescription. I find this extremely disturbing that I cannot get access to the care my dog needs.

I have had great success using chiropractor care for my family. Last year a Doctor said that my husband was going to need a \$25,000 surgery, not including the 12 weeks of loss wages, to regain strength in his shoulder that had begun to fail. He is in construction and we cannot afford to lose that kind of work pay especially without guarantee that his shoulder would be fully functioning. Instead, we sought out Rolfing, Acupuncture, and Chiropractic care. My husband is now functioning better with all the feeling back in his fingers and full mobility two years after treatments. These treatments only took 3 weeks and \$3000.00 with ZERO loss of work pay.

Please, let me have access to the care my dogs need without creating additional costs needed to pay for treatment expenses. The minute you sign off on this bill will be the moment my dog's life will be more comfortable.

Best Regards,  
Tina Husman  
Fort Collins, CO  
97-819-8594  
[morgaine8@hotmail.com](mailto:morgaine8@hotmail.com)

February 8, 17

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to SB 17-135 that would eliminate the need for a Doctor of Chiropractic who is certified in animal chiropractic ( Animal Authority ) to get veterinary referral prior to being able to treat an animal.

The process of signing, sending, and receiving the referral to the veterinarian is incredibly cumbersome for me, my vet, and my dog's chiropractor, and delays care for my animal. My family has been fanciers for our entire lives, and being involved in dog sports nationwide, we are very passionate about the wellbeing of our dogs. I am in charge of every other aspect of my dogs health and to my knowledge no other specialist needs a referral (acupuncture etc). State law should not dictate my animal's healthcare, it should be my decision only as to the routes of care I choose for my pets.

Doctors of chiropractic with an animal authority in the state of Colorado have massive amounts of education and specialize in care that veterinarians cannot offer. They not only carry additional credentials, but also insurance to cover their animal practice separate from their human practice, and are required to do more continuing education to maintain their animal authority on top of their doctor of chiropractic license! There are 4 accepted programs in this state that have all been vetted to qualify to treat patients, so there is absolutely appropriate training for these doctors to treat patients well. These are incredibly qualified individuals, and to need my vets approval is absurd. These doctors are trained to know when to refer back to veterinarians for health conditions they cannot treat. Traditional veterinary care coupled with holistic care like chiropractic is truly what is best for the dog's health and well-being, and the limitations set forth on dog owners and dog healthcare is unnecessary. But again, I as the owner should not have to get my vets permission to care for my dog the way I want to. Especially since dogs are considered property in this state! And as my property, I believe I can choose whatever route I find is best.

We both see a chiropractor and it has helped us with a variety of conditions, and I know chiropractic works the same for my dogs. We did not need a referral from our medical doctor to see a chiropractor, so why should dogs need one? I should be the only one in charge of my animal's health, not the state nor even my veterinarian. Having dogs that compete, it is detrimental that I keep them working and moving their very best, and chiropractic does that for my dogs.

I truly hope the correct decision will be made to honor the well being of pets and the choices of the owners. Please, repeal the necessity of a veterinary referral for my dog to see a DC with Animal Authority.

Sincerely,

Colton and Heather Johnson

Bugaboo Old English Sheepdogs

Courtney Juelfs  
1303 W Swallow Rd #4B  
Fort Collins, CO 80526  
970-237-1511

February 8, 2017

This statement shall serve as evidence of support for legislation in the Senate, Bill SB17-135, by Senator Vicki Marble and House Representative Kimmi Lewis, striking language requiring "veterinary medical clearance" for chiropractic care for animals.

While seeking the chiropractic care which had the ability to significantly increase my dog's well-being, it was very inconvenient and costly to have to schedule a vet exam strictly to get clearance for a veterinary chiropractor. A thorough exam was done on the first visit to assess whether my dog was a candidate for care. Each time I returned my dog was reassessed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Courtney Juelfs", written in a cursive style.

Courtney Juelfs

## Colorado SB 17-135

I am in support of Colorado SB 17-135 for numerous reasons and would like to share with you some of them.

First and foremost, I love my dogs. I want them healthy and happy. They did not ask to be part of my family, I asked them to join me. When I did that, I made a commitment to see that they were taken care of to the best of my ability.

Yes, my dogs receive care from Certified Animal Chiropractors. If you have ever had a dog that has tweaked something and is off, you want to help as quickly as you can giving them care that is not invasive with unneeded drugs to mask a problem. Drugs can give a false sense of "I'm okay, let's play". This can prolong and issue or make it worse. I have seen my dogs jump off the sofa, land wrong and we have a problem. My dogs are athletes and have injured themselves competing on rare occasions. If you're at a competition, would you let your dog be in pain while you try to get a referral? Competitions are not a place a Veterinarian would hang out for an entire weekend. So how do I get help for my dog?

I am retired and on a limited income and the financial stress of a referral fee puts undue stress on my income. I don't have to get a referral to go to my Chiropractor, why should my dog?

A registered Animal Chiropractor will have continuing education to maintain the highest quality care for my pets. I know my pets well enough to know when they need to see a Veterinarian and when a Chiropractor would be better.

Please consider my request to support Colorado SB 17-135.

Sincerely,

Mary Martin



To Whom It May Concern:

Recently I was made aware of Bill SB17-135 that requires veterinary medical clearance for chiropractic care for dogs and horses within the state of Colorado. As an owner of both dogs and horses who travels across the US for events, my job as a responsible owner is to make sure that any animal in my care is in top condition at all times. Unfortunately, when traveling this can sometimes be marred by injury or illness. When this occurs in states with legislation like SB17-135 it is extremely burdensome to owners (like me) who have to waste time, energy, and money trying to access the supportive care their animal needs. Time is more than often paramount in such cases; wasting it when trying to get approval for the care needed is detrimental to the welfare of these animals. I strongly insist that support for unfettered access to qualified chiropractic care for animals in Colorado be legislated.

Tia Noel Prather

TimberCreek Training Centre, LLC  
Champaign, IL

February 15, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jamie Raney and I have a miniature poodle who is 11 years old named Alex. About a year ago, he started having several physical and mental problems. Our veterinarian suggested we see a neurologist who informed me the cause of Alex's issues wasn't something she could pinpoint and that it could range from something as simple as a response to pain, anxiety, or stomach upset to something far more serious such as a low focal seizure or a neurological tumor.

I personally try to treat my illnesses and pain naturally and thought it might be time to do the same for Alex. After receiving a treatment plan for an MRI at the cost of around \$4,000 (that the Neurologist admitted could be inconclusive and included the need to put an 11-year old poodle under anesthesia and expose him to radiation) we decided to seek alternative treatment options.

My boyfriend decided to start by taking Alex to our Massage Therapist, who also works on animals. After one session, she thought he might benefit from a chiropractic adjustment. We regularly see a Chiropractor and did not realize this was an option for Alex. I asked her and my Chiropractor who they would recommend and both suggested Dr. Paige Mott.

I immediately contacted Dr. Mott's office in an effort to make an appointment for Alex. However, I was informed that an appointment would require a referral from our Veterinarian. This seems completely irrational. In order for me to obtain natural treatment for my dog, I am forced to make an appointment with my Veterinarian (at the cost of \$55 dollars) so they could do an exam (that they had already done before referring me to the Neurologist) and warn me that chiropractic care for an animal carries the same risks as the same care for a human. All of which was discussed in full by Dr. Mott before she performed any adjustments after we received our referral.

Alex has benefited greatly from this treatment. His mobility, energy-levels, demeanor, digestion, eating habits and sleep have all improved immensely. Just the other day, a friend of mine who's known Alex since he was a puppy, made the comment that if she didn't know better, she would've thought he was still a puppy because of his energy levels and playful behavior.

I am beyond grateful for the care Dr. Mott has provided to Alex and I think this type of treatment should be something I can choose without the additional unnecessary time and expense of getting an official referral from my Veterinarian. I'm just thankful our Vet Clinic has a couple of doctors who are supportive of chiropractic care for animals. It would be devastating if I would not have been able to seek this treatment and as a result, was forced to undergo invasive treatments that would have exposed him to unnecessary radiation and anesthesia.

I fully support Bill SB17-135 and hope you and your colleagues will pass it and make chiropractic care more accessible to our furry family members.

Thank you!  
Jamie E. Raney  
1518 E. 6th Street  
Loveland, CO 80537

Mike Valerio  
Loveland, CO 80538

02/08/2017

Re: Senate Bill SB17-135

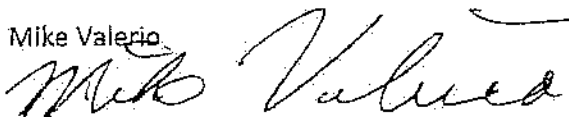
To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Mike Valerio, and I am contacting you to please vote YES on SB17-135.

My dog Jackie, a senior dog had benefited so much from Chiropractic care. I find it completely unnecessary that I must first have a clearance from my Veterinarian to see a qualified, certified and licensed professional. This is a violation of my rights to choose appropriate Chiropractic care for my animal. The law is a burden on me both time wise and financially to get help for my best friend.

Thank you,

Mike Valerio

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Valerio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the name.