

February 11, 2016

To: Michigan Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Sandra George, Jonesville, Michigan, sgeorge517@sbcglobal.net

RE: Oppose HB4408 Mandatory Veterinary Continuing education reporting

As a former association manager and dues-paying association member, I must protest this new government mandate. It increases veterinary license fees by 30-40 percent. Once it's a mandate, the local providers/deciders of what constitutes "approved" continuing education won't have to work as hard to provide useful, engaging education and will be able to charge more for it.

We have plenty of state mandates and electronic reporting already. In November I tried to renew a license online...it didn't work and didn't say why it didn't work. Try again later. Doesn't work. Try calling. Decline waiting on hold for half an hour to get someone to help. This is NOT a productive use of **anyone's** time. We already have OSHA and MIOSHA and EPA and MI-Newhire and Department of Treasurer and the licensing board....the weight of the amount of reporting and supervision that we're paying for already is counterproductive and Gov. Snyder and the state keeps **saying** that it's trying to stop that. This is going the wrong direction.

If the State is going to have a mandate, it should achieve a measurable improvement. I attended the MVMA's Legislative meeting last March with a friend in the horse industry. She was surprised that the MVMA appeared to think Michigan vets were inferior because she knew many horse people who came from Ohio and Indiana to Michigan veterinarians. **I asked the MVMA Executive Director if there was some evidence that Michigan veterinarians are inferior to those in other states which have a mandate. "No,"** was her answer.

Michigan veterinarians are already just as good. They already do continuing education...but now they would pay 30-40 percent more to have more state supervision of exactly what they choose to do for this education. Those who make money from providing this mandated education will be making that decision instead of the independent professionals who don't have time to fight this.

P.S. The fact that I signed up for computer notices of happenings for HB4408 and it didn't give me notice of the House hearing (Learned by seeing HB4408 was being voted on in the House, that you have to sign up for the COMMITTEE notices to get that) just proves my case that the State does NOT do user-friendly computer stuff. Flint's not the only place where people are NOT satisfied with the State of Michigan's customer service. Before the State takes on more, it should do better with what it's already agreed to supervise.