

HB1338 Favorable

To whom this may concern,

I am asking you to please support the HB 1388 to prohibit non-competes for health care and veterinary professionals. This matter is urgent and needs to pass this year. I am a veterinary technician as well as a student on the path to pursue veterinary school. I strongly believe prohibiting non-competes for the health care industry is important because I have personally witnessed the negative effects of a non-compete in the veterinary industry. I worked at a privately owned veterinary hospital. The owner of this practice had three associate veterinarians. Over the course of the two and a half years that I worked at this hospital; I witnessed the owner of the practice commit malpractice on multiple occasions. The other veterinarians working under the owner stood up in order to prioritize the well being of the patients, however, they were met with hostility. The associate veterinarians tried to help correct the malpractice and stand up for better wages for the technicians. The owner of the practice used her non-competes that they had with the associates in order to silence them. The associates were unable to leave the practice, a practice which they disagreed with the ethical obligations that the practice owner had. The non-competes either drove off the veterinarians and placed the clients at a disadvantage. One of the associate veterinarians left the practice and changed fields of practice and the other two associates were forced to practice hours away. As a horse owner, this makes using the veterinarian they want much more difficult. Imagine going to see your own doctor but having to drive over an hour away just to be seen. Lastly, as a student aspiring to be a veterinarian, I am personally cautious about the non-competes. After my own experience in the practice, I was at, I fear situations like this. The veterinary industry is slowly dwindling and we need better rights for the veterinarians to be able to practice, including eliminating the non-compete.

Thank you,
Andrea Torzone