

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in opposition to H.R. 1406, the Fairness to Pet Owners Act.

It is in my opinion that if this bill should pass into law, it would be an undue hardship on practicing veterinarians in terms of the time and paperwork required to obey the law. The fact that this is even being considered to be written into law by Congress also demonstrates to me that our Representatives are wasting a great deal of time addressing this while there are far more pressing and critical issues facing our country.

The bill, if passed, would be redundant. In most states, and in New York in particular, where I practice, it is required that if a client asks for a written prescription it is my obligation to do so. However, the majority of my clients desire the medicine directly from me as they can start their pets on it immediately. This law would require my writing a prescription basically to myself to be in compliance with the law. This is ridiculous! It is a pure waste of time and paper. Furthermore if I have to verify the prescription that is being filled elsewhere and the pharmacist does not fill it correctly, then I am at legal risk, as well as its affecting both my clients and patients. This risk affects their health and welfare and can be extremely detrimental.

Most clients are aware of online pet pharmacies, catalogs and advertising in the printed and on air media. And some clients prefer to obtain their pets' medications elsewhere but these medications are not usually as critical because if a pet is very sick, it needs the medicines right away. Again, I am obligated to write the prescription if asked. There is no need for this to become national legislation.

The practice of Veterinary Medicine has been under attack for several years now as other individuals not educated or licensed as a veterinary professional have been allowed to "practice" certain procedures that are required by law to be performed by a licensed professional with a degree from an accredited or acceptable veterinary school. The passage of this bill seems to me to be yet another attack. It is an attempt by corporations to impinge on an aspect of our practice that is already being addressed nationwide.

Again, I request that H.R. 1406 not be passed into law.

Yours truly,

Linda E. Jacobson, D.V.M.