

HB 1388

FAV

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In July 2022, My Horse Indy an American Paint Horse, was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma in the throat latch region. This type of cancer is usually localized to the eye but had spread making it a difficult to diagnosis and not easy to treat. Prior to his diagnosis he had been assessed and treated by multiple veterinarians/ Specialists including Marion Dupont Scott Equine Center, Leesburg VA, and New Bolton Equine Hospital, Kenneth Square PA, Indy's medical condition was misdiagnosed, prolonging effective treatment making the cancer life threatening. Multiple veterinarians and clinics advised me to put Indy to sleep. My last-ditch effort was when I found Dr. CJ Caniglia, at Wolf Creek Equine Lothian MD, and began treatment for Indy's cancer with an experimental treatment called electro-chemo, this treatment would have to be repeated every 6 weeks for the first 6 months, and then the medical condition could be re-accessed after that time to see how the horse was responding. Indy responded well and this was the only treatment I found that would keep my horse alive and healthy. On November 2023, we were told that Dr. CJ could no longer practice at Wolf Creek Equine due to a non-compete clause, this caused tremendous stress to me and my family and hindered the treatment schedule for our horse. We had already lost one of our beloved horses to this cancer with no veterinarian/specialist in the area to help. We had already invested our time and money and had no veterinarian in the area to serve us to continue Indy's treatment. This turn of events was devastating, we now must drive 2.5 hours one way to continue treatment every 6 weeks. Non-compete clauses for veterinarians not only put the doctor in jeopardy of his lively hood it puts his patients through tremendous stress. I have witnessed personally that Maryland is in decline for veterinarian/specialized services and have traveled to Virginia and Pennsylvania in the past. The non-compete clauses prevent pet owners from getting the care for the animals they deserve. Our beloved pets deserve the best they can get, and the most competent doctors in the state. Preventing a doctor from performing his job takes money from our state and forces the veterinarian to other demographic locations to start over, which creates financial and emotional stress on all parties. I have enclosed photos of my horse before and after for you to witness the amazing treatment he received by Dr. CJ. My horse would not be alive today if it was not for Dr. CJ and veterinarians like him. Let us help people and their pets continue getting the care they need and deserve without restricting veterinarians from practicing medicine and treatment during a time when there is little to no expertise in this treatment area. The Equine workforce is lacking in our state.

Please support Bill HB 1388, to ensure the protection of our equine medical professionals from restricting guidelines such as non-competes that hinder their care, often leading to life and death outcomes of our animals, our pets are so much more than animals, they are our family.

