

**HB 1388 AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT – NONCOMPETE AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST CLAUSES – VETERINARY AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**  
**March 5, 2024 - In Support (FAV)**

Chair Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Delegate Bonnie Cullison and Members of the Health and Operations Committee; Chair Delegate Marc Korman, Vice Chair Delegate Regina T. Boyce and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this important hearing. My name is Dayna Lewnes Blumel, I was born and raised in Annapolis and I own and run a horse farm in Davidsonville. I am strongly urging you to support HB 1388, An Act Concerning Labor and Employment - Noncompete and Conflict of Interest Causes - Veterinary and Health Care Professionals.

I am in favor of HR 1388 for many reasons, but most importantly because I have personally been directly affected by the constraints of non-compete agreements in the last couple of years.

Two years ago, one week before Christmas, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. As you may imagine, I was scared, devastated, and unable to see a path forward. I was referred to my oncologist by my general practitioner, the head radiologist at the imaging center, and she has treated family and a friend of mine. She is a very well-known oncologist and is known as “the best oncologist in our greater area” and little did I know that she was in the middle of a non-compete lawsuit with the hospital.

Because I was in uncharted territory with my own health; having always been extremely healthy, I knew I needed someone I could trust to navigate this cancer diagnosis. What I didn’t expect, was to have to drive an hour out of my way to have my doctors appointment, which was also an hour from the treatment center. When I started chemo, my doctor couldn’t be there. There were many patients that had allergic reactions to the medicine and there were no doctors there because they had to be outside of their noncompete area. The oncology group had left the hospital because the care was not up to their standards and their patients suffered. I figured out how to make it work and I stuck with my doctor and I’m so glad I did, but it was not the most convenient or easy thing to drive an hour out of my way after having chemotherapy and also not having a doctor at the treatment center. Many questions come up during treatments and the nurses had to get the doctors on the phone to get answers.

I am now affected by a similar non-compete clause with my veterinarian. I have been using my veterinarians for over six years and they know my horses inside and out. Because I own the farm and Davidsonville, I also have other horses on my farm and my biggest fear is that we will have an emergency in the middle of the night and I can’t get a vet to my farm. What you may not know is that you have to establish a deep relationship with your large animal vet because they have to travel to you unlike other medical professions. Large animal vets are overworked and there are very few of them. If you do not have a long-standing relationship with the vet, they are not going to come out to your farm for emergencies and this is what I lose sleep over at night. It is my choice who I use for veterinary care, and I understand that I can haul my horses for routine visits. At this time, I am unable to call them for an emergency. I have no options at this time for emergencies.

Please understand that in the medical and veterinary professions the patients have every right to choose their practitioner, and for many reasons that are probably not obvious to those who do not have large animals or who do not have a cancer diagnosis. This may not seem like a big deal, but it most definitely is.

I truly hope that you are also in favor of this bill and that you vote on behalf of patients and not the profits. Thank you for your time.

Dayna Lewnes Blumel



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