

Dear Sirs,

In these trying times, with so many Connecticut residents unemployed or underemployed and with our state facing unprecedented deficits, it is unconscionable that our legislature would tax my animal's health care.

Our veterinarians must continue to support their staff and their hospitals so that they can be there for my animals when I need them. A sales tax on this essential service will therefore have to be paid for by me and all animal owners, making proper care of my animals that much more challenging.

It makes no sense to create an incentive for people to limit or delay medical care for their animals by making that care more expensive. Veterinary services are paid for with discretionary income, which most people have much less of in this challenging economy. Worse still, people of limited means will forgo veterinary care and their animals will suffer even more. Ultimately, it will not raise revenue, as people will simply skip taking pets to the vet.

Finally, public health includes important aspects of animal health such as rabies vaccination and parasite control. It makes no sense to put people at risk by putting up additional barriers through making animal health care more expensive.

Only three states collect sales tax on veterinary services. The other 47 states, including Connecticut, have until now understood that taxing necessary veterinary care will mean less care and worsening animal welfare.

I urge you to find another way to balance our state budget, and get Connecticut moving again. Let's not do it at a health cost to our animals or by placing a financial burden on animal owners. Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Lynn Thibodeau

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