

From: High, Kevin
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 1:26 PM
To: rep.bo.mitchell@capitol.tn.gov
Subject: Support for HB 2288/SB 2154

Dear Representative Mitchell,

My name is Richard Kevin High; I reside in Davidson County and work at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. I've worked at Vanderbilt for 28 years and since 1993 have had the privilege of teaching in Vanderbilt's Surgical Research Program working side by side with the Veterinary Medical Technicians here at Vanderbilt. I've been a registered nurse for 33 years and am a lifelong resident of TN.

I ask that you vote favorably on HB 2288/SB 2154 which simply changes the existing name in the code from "Licensed Veterinary Medical Technician" to "Registered Veterinary Nurse." Multiple states have established individual practice acts with varied education and credentialing requirements for veterinary technicians. This has resulted in four different titles for essentially the same job. To clarify this ambiguity, the Tennessee and National Veterinary Technicians have decided to coalesce under one title that accurately reflects their education and license – Registered Veterinary Nurse.

A side-by-side comparison of credentialed Licensed Veterinary Medical Technicians and human nurses in Tennessee show no meaningful differences in education, certification or board examinations. Using the term Registered Veterinary Nurse accurately reflects the extensive education and licensing exam for the profession.

This bill only deals with the areas of Veterinary Medicine and has no impact whatsoever on the Nursing Board or Nursing Practice Act. If a Registered Veterinary Nurse were to use the title "Nurse" or "Registered Nurse" in their practice, the Registered Veterinary Nurse could be subject to disciplinary action before the Veterinary Medical Board.

Thank you for your time. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Regards,

R. Kevin High

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