

## **Rural Veterinary Workforce Act Statement of Support (118<sup>th</sup> Congress)**

Congress is urged to pass the **Rural Veterinary Workforce Act**, formerly known as the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Enhancement Act, to bolster access to veterinary care for livestock and poultry (beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, chickens, turkeys, meat goats, dairy goats, sheep, llamas, alpacas, aquaculture, farmed deer and elk, etc.).

Passage of the bill will also help each state address its needs for public practice veterinarians (food safety, public health, epidemiology, pathology, molecular diagnostics, virology, toxicology, immunology, bacteriology, serology, foreign animal disease preparedness, and livestock infectious diseases).

The tax treatment of the VMLRP is handled differently than it is for the analogous program for physicians and other human healthcare providers. Currently, the awards are included in the gross income of the recipient and the USDA is required to pay the associated tax on their behalf out of congressionally appropriated funds for the program. Removing the current tax treatment of these awards will allow more ranchers and farmers in rural America to gain better access to a wide array of veterinary services needed for their livestock and poultry.

Since the inception of the VMLRP in FY2010, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has made 795 awards as new and renewal service agreements. In that time, NIFA received 2,061 applications from 1,451 unique applicants. Had these awards been exempt from the current tax treatment, roughly one additional veterinarian would have been selected to practice in communities throughout rural America for every three awards made.

Every American community deserves ready access to veterinarians. Congress can ensure our nation's livestock and poultry are healthy, our food supply is safe and secure, and public health is protected by passing the Rural Veterinary Workforce Act.

Sincerely,

### **National Organizations**

American Veterinary Medical Association  
American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture  
American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition  
American Animal Hospital Association  
American Association of Avian Pathologists  
American Association of Bovine Practitioners  
American Association of Equine Practitioners  
American Association of Feline Practitioners  
American Association of Food Safety & Public Health Veterinarians  
American Association of Industry Veterinarians  
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners  
American Association of Swine Veterinarians  
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians  
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges  
American Association of Zoo Veterinarians

American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine  
American College of Poultry Veterinarians  
American College of Theriogenologists  
American College of Veterinary Radiology  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association  
American Horse Council  
American Society of Animal Science  
American Veterinary One Health Association  
Animal Health Institute  
BioNexus KC  
Boehringer Ingelheim  
Farm Journal Foundation  
Livestock Marketing Association  
National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials  
National Association of Federal Veterinarians  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Chicken Council  
National Institute for Animal Agriculture  
National Livestock Producers Association  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Turkey Federation  
North American Meat Institute  
North American Renderers Association  
Pride Veterinary Medical Community  
R-CALF USA  
Society for Theriogenology  
Student American Veterinary Medical Association  
USPOULTRY  
Veterinary Medical Association Executives  
Zoetis

**State Organizations**

Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries  
Alabama Veterinary Medical Association  
Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association  
Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
California Veterinary Medical Association  
Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association  
Delaware Veterinary Medical Association  
District of Columbia Veterinary Medical Association  
Florida Veterinary Medical Association  
Georgia Department of Agriculture  
Georgia Veterinary Medical Association  
Idaho Veterinary Medical Association  
Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association  
Indiana Veterinary Medical Association  
Iowa Veterinary Medical Association  
Kansas Veterinary Medical Association  
KC Animal Health Corridor  
Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association  
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association  
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry  
Maryland Veterinary Medical Association  
Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association  
Michigan Allied Poultry Industries  
Michigan Veterinary Medical Association  
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association

Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine  
Mississippi Valley Veterinary Medical Association  
Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association  
Missouri Department of Agriculture  
Missouri Veterinary Medical Association  
Montana Veterinary Medical Association  
Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association  
Nevada Veterinary Medical Association  
New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association  
New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association  
New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association  
New York State Veterinary Medical Society  
North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association  
North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association  
Ohio Veterinary Medical Association  
Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association  
Oregon Veterinary Medical Association  
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association  
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union  
South Carolina Association of Veterinarians  
Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association  
Texas Veterinary Medical Association  
Vermont Veterinary Medical Association  
Virginia Veterinary Medical Association  
Washington State University  
Washington State Veterinary Medical Association  
Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association