



Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges  
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Senator Allard's Leadership and Efforts Applauded  
By  
The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) recently recognized Senator Wayne Allard, DVM (R-CO) for his foresight and leadership in sponsoring Senate Bill 914, the Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act (VWEA). When it is passed, VWEA will create competitive grants for colleges of veterinary medicine to increase the number of veterinarians in public health practice. These grants will expand capacity and services at existing veterinary schools including teaching laboratories, research facilities, and classrooms.

Dr. Lawrence E. Heider, Executive Director of the AAVMC, along with Dr. Andrew Maccabe, Associate Executive Director; former Senator John Melcher, DVM, AAVMC Consultant; Mr. Brian Smith, AAVMC Legislative Assistant; and Dr. Michael Chaddock, AAVMC Director



From left to right: Former Senator John Melcher (D-MT), Dr. H. Michael Chaddock (AAVMC), Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO), Dr. Lawrence E. Heider (AAVMC), Dr. Andrew Maccabe (AAVMC), Mr. Brian Smith (AAVMC). *Photo Courtesy of AAVMC.*

of Communications, recently presented Senator Allard with a framed collage of veterinary media headlines and articles highlighting Senator Allard's leadership strategy and skills in managing this important issue through the United States Senate. "We are very fortunate to have Dr. Wayne Allard in the United States Senate," said Dr. Heider. "Senator Allard not only understands the importance of academic veterinary medicine but works tirelessly to educate his fellow senators of how veterinary medicine has so much to offer in the areas of public health, research, biosecurity, and protecting the homeland against bioterrorism and zoonotic diseases."

In accepting this award from the AAVMC, Senator Allard remarked, "Veterinarians play a key role in protecting the health of our nation, yet today there is shortage of 1,500 veterinarians working in public health and biomedical research. If we do not do something to increase the capacity at our veterinary schools there will be a shortage of 15,000 veterinarians over the next twenty years."

There are 86,000 veterinarians in the United States today. The 28 U.S. Colleges of Veterinary Medicine graduate only 2,500 veterinarians each year and are currently at full capacity. The federal government has not provided general funding to increase the number of veterinarians in over 30 years. In January 2004, President George W. Bush issued Homeland Security Presidential Directive #9 which called for "building veterinary capacity through both recruitment and preparation of additional veterinary graduates into careers in public, food systems, biomedical research, diagnostic laboratory investigations, pathology, epidemiology, ecosystem health and food animal practice. Competitive grants should be made available to scientists to upgrade equipment for animal disease research

and to construct and maintain government and university Biosafety Level 3 and Biosafety Level 4 facilities for livestock, poultry, and wildlife.” The Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act directly addresses this call by the President.

For more information about Senate Bill 914 and how you can help with its passage, please contact Mr. Brian Smith, [bsmith@aavmc.org](mailto:bsmith@aavmc.org), or (202) 371-9195 Ext 17.

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The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) coordinates the national and international affairs of all thirty-two veterinary medical colleges in the United States and Canada, nine departments of veterinary science, eight departments of comparative medicine, two animal medical centers, and four international colleges of veterinary medicine. We foster the teaching, research and service activities of our members, both nationally and internationally. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for people and animals by advancing veterinary medical education, improving animal health and welfare, strengthening biomedical research, promoting food safety and food security, and enhancing environmental quality. On the web: <http://www.aavmc.org>