



H.R. 2796, Wildlife Veterinarians Employment and Training (VET) Act

H.R. 2796 would:

- Expand the workforce of veterinarians specialized in the care and conservation of wild animals and their ecosystems, and develop educational programs focused on wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine.
- Create new funded positions for wildlife and zoological clinical and research veterinarians.
- Limit the amount of educational debt for veterinary medicine students while providing incentives to study and practice wildlife and zoological medicine.
- Help schools and colleges of veterinary medicine develop pilot curricula specializing in health management of wildlife in their natural habitat and in captivity.
- Expand the number of educational and training programs in wildlife and zoological medicine.

Background:

- Veterinary students face large educational debt upon graduation. In 2011, graduation student debt load averaged nearly \$152,000, a 6.5% increase from 2010.
- A growing number of students enter veterinary school with an interest in wildlife and/or zoological veterinary medicine, but choose different fields of study and practice due to the small number of positions available for wildlife and zoological veterinarians upon graduation.
- Salaries for wildlife and zoological veterinarians are relatively low compared to the average salaries of veterinarians in companion animal medicine.

Reason to Support:

- Veterinary colleges will gain needed support to develop and enhance programs in wildlife and zoo medicine.
- Trainees will gain valuable professional experience and earn credentials that will make them competitive for wildlife and zoological positions.

Contact:

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