

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act Statement of Support (117th Congress)

Congress is urged to pass 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).

Exempting loan repayment awards for veterinarians from an onerous and astonishingly high withholding tax – 37 percent – means more ranchers and farmers in rural America will gain better access to a wide array of veterinary services needed for their livestock and poultry.

Since 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has made 552 awards to public practice and food animal veterinarians in 47 states, Puerto Rico and federal lands. Meanwhile 1,632 veterinarians have applied to fill shortage areas since the program's launch. Had these awards been exempt from withholding taxes, 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 Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act.

Sincerely,

Livestock, Poultry & Small Ruminants

American Goat Federation
American Horse Council
American Sheep Industry Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
North American Meat Institute
US Cattlemen's Association

Agriculture & Rural

American Farm Bureau Federation®
California Farm Bureau Federation
BioNexus KC
Kansas City Animal Health Corridor
Kansas Department of Agriculture
Minnesota Board of Animal Health
Missouri Department of Agriculture
National Association of State Animal Health Officials
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Farmers Union
National Institute for Animal Agriculture
North American Renderers Association
Rural & Agriculture Council of America

Veterinary Medicine, Animal Health & Welfare

American Veterinary Medical Association
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
Alabama Veterinary Medical Association
Alaska Veterinary Medical Association
American Animal Hospital Association
American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition
American Association for Laboratory Animal Science
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 Small Ruminant Practitioners
American Association of Swine Veterinarians
American Association of Veterinary Clinicians
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
American Association of Zoo Veterinarians
American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine
American College of Theriogenologists
American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine
American College of Veterinary Radiology
American College of Veterinary Nutrition
American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association
American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners
Animal Health Institute

Arizona Veterinary Medical Association
Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association
Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health
California Veterinary Medical Association
Colorado Veterinary Medical Association
Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association
Delaware Veterinary Medical Association
District of Columbia Veterinary Medical Association
Florida Veterinary Medical Association
Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association
Human Animal Bond Research Institute
Idaho Veterinary Medical Association
Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association
Indiana Veterinary Medical Association
Iowa Veterinary Medical Association
Kansas Veterinary Medical Association
Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
Maine Veterinary Medical Association
Maryland Veterinary Medical Association
Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
Michigan Veterinary Medical Association
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association
Missouri Veterinary Medical Association
Montana Veterinary Medical Association
National Association of Federal Veterinarians
National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians
National Association of Veterinary Technicians in
America
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
Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association
Puerto Rico Veterinary Medical Association
Poultry Science Association
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association
Society for Theriogenology
South Carolina Association of Veterinarians
South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association
Student American Veterinary Medical Association
Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association
Texas Veterinary Medical Association
Unites States Animal Health Association

University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Utah Veterinary Medical Association
Vermont Veterinary Medical Association
Virginia Veterinary Medical Association
Washington State Veterinary Medical Association
West Virginia Veterinary Medical Association
Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association
Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association
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