

»»» Welcome to the 119th Congress, from the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)



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Founded in 1966, the AAVMC represents more than 40,000 faculty, staff and students across the global academic veterinary medical community. Our member institutions include Council on Education (COE) accredited veterinary medical colleges and schools from around the world.

Every day, our institutions use a One Health approach to help solve global problems, ranging from zoonotic diseases to food insecurity. This approach means that we recognize that animal, human and environmental health are interconnected, and these issues must be addressed in a comprehensive way to be effective.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS:

Rural Veterinary Workforce Act

With the looming expiration of the 2017 tax legislation, Congress is expected to take up a comprehensive tax reform package early in 2025. For AAVMC, this package MUST include the **Rural Veterinary Workforce Act** (HR 4355 in the 118th Congress) <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/4355/text>

This bill would help increase access to veterinarians in designated shortage areas by removing the current 37% tax on funds awarded to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP). This would also align the VMLRP with other funds for the healthcare professions, which are already exempt from taxation. More information about the VMLRP can be found here: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/veterinary-medicine-loan-repayment-program>

Maintain the Federal Research Enterprise

We must continue to invest in innovation, research and development to maintain America's competitive edge. Laboratories in our nation's colleges of veterinary medicine provide critical support to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (through the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, or AFRI), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and other agencies. Budget and appropriations decisions will determine whether the U.S. continues to have the most abundant, safest food supply in the world and whether we protect the health and well-being of our citizens.

Restore funding for the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD)

FARAD is housed at five colleges of veterinary medicine:

- The University of California-Davis
- The University of Florida
- North Carolina State University
- Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine
- Kansas State University

FARAD develops and maintains data that livestock producers rely on to keep harmful drug residues and chemical exposures out of the food animal supply chain. FARAD has historically been funded at \$2.5 million but was cut by 20% in FY 2024. Continued reductions will make the program unsustainable and have already resulted in difficulty hiring adequate personnel.