

AVMA



American Veterinary Medical Association

AAVMC



Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act S. 914 / H.R. 2206

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Current Status:

There are 86,000 veterinarians in the United States. The 28 U.S. Colleges of Veterinary Medicine graduate only 2,500 veterinarians each year and are currently at full capacity.

Current Shortage:

There is a critical need for more veterinarians to provide services in the following public health areas:

- USDA (Food Safety and Animal Disease Control)
- Biosecurity and Homeland Security
- Research on domestic and foreign animal diseases
- Public Health Service/Animal diseases affecting humans
- Rural Communities and Urban Centers without veterinary services
- Wildlife Disease Control
- Animal Care and Welfare
- Laboratory Animal Care and Research

Conservative estimates, using information from the National Research Council of the National Academies, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, USDA, the American Pet Products Manufacturer's Association, Institute for Laboratory Animal Research, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, identify a **current shortage of 1,500 veterinarians in these areas.**

Projections:

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by the year 2025 the human population will increase 15%. Historically, animal populations increase proportionally. With today's shortage, plus the projected increase in need **over the next 20 years, there will be a shortage of 15,000 veterinarians.**

Solution:

The Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act (S. 914/H.R. 2206) creates a competitive grants program to increase the number of veterinarians to meet these needs. These grants will expand capacity and services at existing schools, including increased teaching laboratories, research facilities, classrooms and administrative space. The federal government has not provided general funding to increase the number of veterinarians in over 30 years. Because the veterinary colleges serve as a national resource, a federal response is critical.

For More Information:

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To Co-Sponsor S. 914/H.R. 2206

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