

## **Rural Veterinary Workforce Act Statement of Support (119<sup>th</sup> Congress)**

Congress is urged to pass the **Rural Veterinary Workforce 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).

The tax treatment of the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) is handled differently than it is for the analogous program for physicians and other human healthcare providers. Currently, the awards are included in the gross income of the recipient and the USDA is required to pay the associated tax on their behalf out of congressionally appropriated funds for the program. Removing the current tax treatment of these awards will allow more ranchers and farmers in rural America to gain better access to a wide array of veterinary services needed for their livestock and poultry.

Since the inception of the VMLRP in FY2010, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has made 883 awards as new and renewal service agreements. In that time, NIFA received 2,197 applications from 1,530 unique applicants. In 2023 alone, USDA was responsible for \$2,414,016 to offset federal tax liability of the awardees. Had these awards been exempt from the current tax treatment, millions of dollars could be invested back into communities throughout rural America.

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 Rural Veterinary Workforce Act.

Sincerely,

### **National Organizations:**

American Veterinary Medical Association	American College of Veterinary Radiology
American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture	American Farm Bureau Federation
American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition	American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association
American Animal Hospital Association	American Horse Council
American Association of Food Safety and Public Health Veterinarians	American Veterinary One Health Center
American Association of Avian Pathologists	Animal Health Institute
American Association of Bovine Practitioners	Farm Journal Foundation
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners	Feline Veterinary Medical Association
American Association of Swine Veterinarians	Livestock Marketing Association
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians	Meat Institute
American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges	National Association of Federal Veterinarians
American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians	National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians
American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine	National Cattlemen's Beef Association
American College of Theriogenologists	National Grange
	National Institute for Animal Agriculture
	National Milk Producers Federation
	National Pork Producers Council

National Turkey Federation  
PrideVMC  
R-CALF USA  
Student American Veterinary Medical Association  
USPOULTRY  
Veterinary Medical Association Executives  
Zoetis

**State Organizations:**

Alabama Veterinary Medical Association  
Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association  
Arizona Veterinary Medical Association  
Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association  
California Veterinary Medical Association  
Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association  
DC Veterinary Medical Association  
Delaware Veterinary Medical Association  
Florida Veterinary Medical Association  
Georgia Department of Agriculture  
Georgia Veterinary Medical Association  
Idaho Veterinary Medical Association  
Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association  
Indiana Veterinary Medical Association  
Iowa Veterinary Medical Association  
Kansas Veterinary Medical Association  
KC Animal Health Corridor  
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  
Missouri Department of Agriculture  
Missouri Veterinary Medical Association  
Montana Veterinary Medical Association  
Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association  
Nevada Veterinary Medical Association  
New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association  
New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association  
North American Renderers Association  
North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association  
North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association  
New York State Veterinary Medical Society  
Ohio Veterinary Medical Association  
Oregon Veterinary Medical Association  
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association

South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association  
Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association  
Texas Veterinary Medical Association  
The Washington State Veterinary Medical Association  
Utah. Veterinary Medical Association  
Vermont Veterinary Medical Association  
Virginia Veterinary Medical Association  
Washington State University  
West Virginia Veterinary Medical Association  
Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association  
Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association