Legislative Agenda for the 114th Congress

updated Dec. 1, 2016

AVMA’s Governmental Relations Division (GRD) advocates the association’s policies and positions on federal legislative and regulatory issues that influence animal and human health and advance the veterinary medical profession. This document includes a list of key federal legislation, organized by issue area, which the GRD is monitoring for the 114th Congress (Jan. 3, 2015-Jan. 3, 2017).
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Resources

AVMA’s Legislative Scoring System

The AVMA prioritizes how it will address bills or regulations when they are posed in Congress. The scoring system uses the following five rankings:

- **Active Pursuit of Passage** – This means that a high priority application of AVMA resources will be expended to pass the bill.
- **Active Pursuit of Defeat** – This means that a high priority application of AVMA resources will be expended to stop the bill from becoming law.
- **Support** – This means that the AVMA supports the bill; however, it is not a high priority. A low priority application of AVMA resources should be expended on the bill. However, if asked, the AVMA is on record for supporting the bill.
- **Nonsupport** – This means that the AVMA does not support the bill as written, and it is not a high priority. A low priority application of AVMA resources should be expended on the bill. However, if asked, the AVMA is on record of not supporting the bill. If applicable and appropriate, the AVMA may identify areas of the bill that would need to be changed for support of the bill to be a consideration.
- **No Action** – This means that the AVMA has reviewed the bill, but has not taken a position. The Governmental Relations Division staff will continue to monitor the legislation and advise AVMA’s Legislative Advisory Committee should the legislation’s status change.

AVMA Governmental Relations Division Contacts

Below is the contact information for AVMA’s Governmental Relations Division staff:

- Dr. Mark Lutschaunig, director, 800-321-1473 ext. 3205, mlutschaunig@avma.org
- Gina Luke, assistant director, 800-321-1473 ext. 3204, gluke@avma.org
- Dr. Ashley Morgan, assistant director, 800-321-1473 ext. 3210, amorgan@avma.org
- Valerie Goddard, program manager & policy analyst, 800-321,1473 ext.3201,vgoddard@avma.org
# Issue Areas

## Appropriations

### Fiscal 2017 Appropriations
AVMA actively seeks to pass federal funding for an array of federal programs and agencies administered by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Health and Human Services (HHS) that directly impact veterinary medicine, animal health and welfare, food safety, disease surveillance and public health. Also, AVMA actively engages with coalitions to bolster funding for food and agricultural research, biomedical research and antibiotic resistance. The following table provides a listing of programs and agencies that the AVMA is actively pursuing federal funding.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>$5 M</td>
<td>$6.5 M</td>
<td>$6.5 M</td>
<td>$5 M</td>
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<td>Veterinary Services Grant Program</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>$901.12 M</td>
<td>$934 M</td>
<td>$949.3 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Animal Health Laboratory Network</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>$15 M</td>
<td>$15 M*</td>
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<td>Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>$1.25 M</td>
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<td>$1.25 M</td>
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<td>Agricultural Research Service</td>
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<td>Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initiative</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>FY 2016</td>
<td>FY 2017</td>
<td>FY 2018</td>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>FY TBD</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Health and Disease Research</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>$4 M</td>
<td>$10 M</td>
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<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>Labor, HHS, &amp; Education</td>
<td>$32.084 B</td>
<td>$34.5 B</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>$34.1 B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obama’s Antimicrobial Resistance Initiative</td>
<td>Multiple bills</td>
<td>$8.7 M</td>
<td>$1 M at FDA; $61 M at USDA**</td>
<td>TBD at USDA</td>
<td>$9.916 M at APHIS***</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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*combined from all federal sources: NIFA-FADI and APHIS.

**$61 M including $35 M in new funding, for USDA’s Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (CARB) activities including for research, surveillance, education and outreach as well as $1 million for the FDA’s CARB activities.

***The House bill includes $9.916,000 for on-farm surveillance and data collection to enhance the understanding of on-farm levels of antibiotic use and the impact on antimicrobial resistance levels. The information collected should clearly delineate between antibiotics used for food-producing and companion animals. To avoid duplication with existing programs like the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS), the Committee expects surveys regarding on-farm usage to be limited to collecting information about the antibiotics used and should not be utilized for other regulatory purposes. The Committee expects the agency to work primarily with end-users of antibiotics and veterinarians providing care to animals. APHIS will collect this information through its statistical unit under the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act, which will guarantee that all collected information would be protected from distribution in a manner that could identify an individual respondent.

+The Senate bill includes $10,800,000 for NARMS, equal to the level provided in fiscal 2016. $5 M at APHIS for data collection, sampling, testing, surveillance, etc.

Also, AVMA supports funding to ensure the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility (NFAB) workforce needs for qualified scientists, including DVM-PhDs, are met to ensure the facility is fully staffed when it opens in 2022. USDA manages virtually all research and development activities for NBAF and Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC), while DHS is responsible for building NBAF and PIADC facilities.

**Status of fiscal 2017 appropriations:** On Sept. 29, 2016 President Obama signed legislation (H.R. 5325, Public Law 114-223) to extend government funding through Dec. 9, 2016 and provide full-year funding for military construction and the Veteran’s Administration. At present, lawmakers are ironing out legislation to fund the government for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Passage

**Primary Contact:** Gina Luke

**Animal Health and Welfare Issues**

**H.R. 3268/S. 1121, the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act**

This bill amends the Horse Protection Act (HPA) to designate additional unlawful acts with regard to the practice of soring horses. It also strengthens penalties for violations and improves USDA enforcement. Specific provisions include: defining an "action device" as any boot, collar, chain, roller,
or other device that encircles or is placed upon the lower extremity of the leg of a horse; clarifying that the term "management" includes the sponsoring organization and the event manager; creating a penalty structure that requires horses to be disqualified for an increasing period of time based on the number of violations (from 180 days up to three years); requiring the USDA to license, train, assign and oversee inspectors who enforce the HPA; making the actual act of soring illegal and/or directing another person to cause a horse to become sore illegal; prohibiting the use of action devices on any limb of Tennessee Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle Horses, or Racking Horses at horse shows, exhibitions, sales or auctions; banning the use of weighted shoes, pads, wedges, hoof bands, or other devices that are not strictly protective or therapeutic in nature; increasing civil and criminal penalties for violators; requiring a period of time where show horses are banned from participating in shows, exhibitions, sales or auctions for one or more violations; and disqualifying violators permanently upon their third or higher violation.

**Status:** Congressman Ted Yoho (R-Fla.-3) introduced **H.R. 3268** on July 28, 2015, and it was referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

On April 28, 2015, Sens. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) and Mark Warner (D-Va.) introduced **S. 1121**, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Passage

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

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**H.R. 4105/S. 1161, Horse Protection Amendments Act**

This legislation amends the Horse Protection Act to create one governing body, the Horse Industry Organization (HIO), to manage the inspection and penalty process against “soring” horses throughout the walking horse show industry. The bill places requirements on how and which individuals are appointed to the single HIO board. It also changes what inspection methods can be used and what they can include.

**Status:** Congressman Scott DesJarlais (R-Tenn.-4) introduced **H.R. 4105** on Nov. 19, 2015, and it was referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

On April 30, 2015, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) introduced **S. 1161**, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Defeat

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

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**H.R. 1282/S. 850, Horse Transportation Safety Act**

This legislation amends Title 49 of the United States Code to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate commerce in a motor vehicle (except a vehicle operated exclusively on rail or rails) containing two or more levels stacked on top of one another. The legislation also sets civil penalties for persons who knowingly violate the law.

**Status:** Rep. Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.-9) introduced **H.R. 1282** on March 4, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.
Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) introduced S. 850 on March 24, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Passage  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

This legislation will expand federal law to include protections for pets of domestic violence victims and establish a federal grant program that will help ensure that victims have access to safe shelters for their pets. Specifically, the bill aims to assist both female and male victims with pets by: making threats to a pet a stalking-related crime; providing grant funding to increase the availability of housing for victims that accommodates pets; encouraging states to provide coverage for pets under protection orders; and requiring abusers who harm pets to pay veterinary and other expenses incurred as a result.

**Status:** Reps. Katherine Clark (D-Mass.-5) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.-27) introduced H.R. 1258 on March 4, 2015, and it has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary and the House Committee on Agriculture.

Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) introduced S. 1559 on June 11, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee.

**AVMA Position:** Support  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

**H.R. 746/ S. 388, Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors (AWARE) Act**
This bill will remove the exemption for farm animals used in agricultural research at federal facilities under the Animal Welfare Act, resulting in regular inspections and oversight by the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

**Status:** Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.-3) and Michael Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.-8) introduced H.R. 746 on Feb. 5, 2015, and it was referred to the House Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture.

Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) introduced S. 388 on Feb. 5, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

**AVMA Position:** No Action  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

**H.R. 2493, Wounded Warrior Service Dog Act of 2015**
This bill will direct the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to jointly establish the K-9 Companion Corps program for the awarding of grants to assist nonprofit organizations in establishing, planning, designing, and/or operating programs to provide assistance dogs to certain members of the Armed Forces and veterans who have certain disabilities.
**Status:** Rep. James McGovern (D-Mass.-2) introduced **H.R. 2493** on May 21, 2015, and it was referred to both the House Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

**AVMA Position:** Support  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

- **H.R. 2293/S. 1831, Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act**
  This bill will amend the federal criminal code to prohibit intentionally engaging in animal crushing in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States. Current law only prohibits knowingly creating or distributing an animal crush video. This bill adds exceptions for conduct that is for predator or pest control, medical or scientific research, or necessary to protect the life or property of a person from a serious threat caused by an animal.

**Status:** Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas-21) introduced **H.R. 2293** on May 13, 2015, and it was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

Sen. Pat Toomey (R-P.A.) introduced **S. 1831** on July 22, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Passage  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

- **H.R. 3193, Animal Emergency Planning Act of 2015**
  This bill will amend the Animal Welfare Act to require that covered persons develop and implement emergency contingency plans. For purposes of this legislation, the term `covered person' would include a research facility, dealer, exhibitor, intermediate handler, carrier, or Federal research facility. Each covered person would be required to develop, document, and follow a contingency plan to provide for the humane handling, treatment, transportation, housing, and care of its animals in the event of an emergency or disaster.

**Status:** Rep. Dina Titus (D-Nev.-1) introduced H.R. 3193 on July 23, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.

**AVMA Position:** Support  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Ashley Morgan

- **S. 2634, One Health Act of 2016**
  This bill would require that the Administration create a comprehensive strategy, the “National One Health Framework,” to address infectious diseases in animals and the environment, so that transmission into human populations may be prevented; encourage collaboration between certain federal agencies (USDA, USAID, FDA, EPA, CDC, DOI, DHS and other departments and agencies on One Health-related activities); establish One Health grant programs and Centers of Excellence to strengthen capabilities to carry out programs and activities outlined in the National One Health Framework; and, direct the Treasury Department to urge the World Bank and the World Health Organization to increase investments in One Health approaches to Global Health Security.
**Status:** Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) introduced S. 2634 on March 3, 2016, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Passage

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Ashley Morgan

**H.R. 2641, Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act of 2015**

The legislation requires: (1) there to be an independent anti-doping organization with responsibility for ensuring the integrity and safety of horse races that are the subject of interstate off-track wagers, and (2) the independent anti-doping organization designated pursuant to the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 (United States Anti-Doping Agency) to serve as such organization. H.R. 2641 sets forth as the duties of such organization: (1) developing, publishing, and maintaining rules regarding substances, methods, and treatments that may and may not be administered to a horse participating in such a race; (2) implementing programming relating to anti-doping education, research, testing, and adjudication to prevent any horse participating in such a race from racing under the effect of any prohibited substance, method, or treatment; and (3) excluding from participation in any such race any person who is determined to have violated such a rule or who is subject to a suspension from horse racing activities by any state racing commission. The legislation prescribes conditions under which such organization may: (1) suspend the period a person is excluded from participation; and (2) permit the use of furosemide by a horse participating in such a race during the two-year period following enactment of this Act.

**Status:** Rep. Joseph Pitts (R-Penn.-16) introduced H.R. 2641 on June 3, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade.

**AVMA Position:** Nonsupport

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

**H.R. 3084, the Thoroughbred Racing Integrity Act**

This legislation would establish the Thoroughbred Horseracing Anti-Doping Authority as an independent organization with responsibility for developing and administering an anti-doping program for Thoroughbred horses (covered horses), the trainers, owners, veterinarians, and employees of such persons and other personnel who are engaged in the care, training, or racing of such horses (covered persons), and horseraces that involve only Thoroughbreds and that are the subject of interstate off-track wagers (covered horseraces). It would grant the Authority exclusive jurisdiction for anti-doping matters over all covered horses, persons, and horseraces, effective January 1, 2017. The legislation imposes the jurisdiction and authority of the Authority as conditions upon the privilege to accept, receive, or transmit wagers on, and to participate in, covered horseraces. Vests the Authority with the same powers over Thoroughbred horseracing licensees as the state racing commissions have. The bill would direct the Authority to develop and administer the Thoroughbred horseracing anti-doping program, which shall include:

- lists of permitted and prohibited substances and methods;
- a schedule of sanctions for violations;
- programs relating to anti-doping research and education;
- testing procedures, standards, and protocols for in-competition and out-of-competition testing;
• procedures for investigating, charging, and adjudicating violations and for the enforcement of sanctions for violations; and
• laboratory standards for accreditation and testing requirements, procedures, and protocols. The legislation also directs the Authority to establish: (1) a list of anti-doping rule violations applicable to either horses or covered persons; (2) standards of accreditation for laboratories involved in the testing of samples taken from Thoroughbred horses, the process for achieving and maintaining accreditation, and the standards and protocols for testing of samples; (3) rules for anti-doping results management and the disciplinary process for anti-doping rule violations; and (4) uniform rules imposing sanctions against covered persons and/or covered horses for anti-doping rule violations. Funds for the establishment and administration of the anti-doping program would be paid by the Thoroughbred horseracing industry.

**Status:** Rep. Andy Barr (R-Ky.-6) introduced H.R. 3084 on July 16, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade.

**AVMA Position:** Nonsupport

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

**H.R. 2697, Rare Cats and Canids Act of 2015**
This bill would establish a Rare Cats and Canids Conservation Fund as a separate account within the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. The Department of the Interior would be required to use amounts in the fund to provide assistance for the conservation of rare felids and rare canids. Grant amounts would not be allowed for use for captive breeding unless it is a part of an accredited reintroduction or restoration program. The Department of the Interior could convene an advisory group of individuals representing organizations actively involved in the conservation of felids and canids.

**Status:** Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.-3) introduced H.R. 2697 on June 9, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

**AVMA Position:** No Action

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

**H.R. 3294/S. 1898, Sanctuary Regulatory Fairness Act of 2015**
The legislation directs the Department of Health and Human Services to promulgate a final rule revising federal regulations regarding the importation of nonhuman primates (i.e. chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, macaques, and numerous other species) to expand the categories of uses for which nonhuman primates may be imported and distributed (the current requirement are that nonhuman primates be imported only for scientific, educational, or exhibition purposes) to include live nonhuman primates imported into the United States by a certified primate sanctuary for purposes of providing lifetime shelter and care. The legislation also requires such rule to establish a process for the certification of facilities as primate sanctuaries for purposes of the importation, shelter, and care of nonhuman primates.

**Status:** Rep. Renee Ellmers (R-NC-2) introduced H.R. 3294 on July 29, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health.
Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) introduced S. 1898 on July 29, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

**AVMA Position:** Nonsupport  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

**H.R. 2742/S. 1498, To amend title 10, United States Code, to require that military working dogs be retired in the United States, and for other purposes**

This legislation would amend title 10(Armed Services), United States Code, to require that military working dogs be retired in the United States.

**Status:** Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) introduced S. 1498 on June 3, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Rep. Erik Paulson (R-Minn.-3) introduced H.R. 2742 on June 11, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness.

**AVMA Position:** Support  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

**S. 587/H.R. 1095, Battlefield Excellence through Superior Training (BEST) Practices Act**

H.R. 1095 Battlefield Excellence through Superior Training (BEST) Practices Act requires the Secretary of Defense (DOD), no later than: (1) October 1, 2018, to develop, test, and validate human-based training methods for training members of the Armed Forces in the treatment of combat trauma injuries, with the goal of replacing live animal-based training methods; and (2) October 1, 2020, to use only use human-based training methods for such purposes. The legislation prohibits the use of animals in such training after the latter date.

Unlike H.R. 1095, S. 587 provides an exception when the Secretary determines that human-based training methods will not provide an educationally equivalent or superior substitute for live animal-based training methods.

**Status:** Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) introduced S. 587 on February 16, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

Rep. Hank Johnson (D-Ga.-4) introduced H.R. 1095 on February 26, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

**AVMA Position:** S. 587, Support; H.R. 1095 Nonsupport  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

**H.R. 2016/S. 1081, Refuge from Cruel Trapping Act**

This legislation would amend the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 to prohibit the use or possession of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System.
**Status:** Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.-17) introduced H.R. 2016 on April 23, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) introduced S. 587 on April 23, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

**AVMA Position:** Nonsupport

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

### H.R. 1942/S. 1214, Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act of 2015

This legislation would amend Section 302 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act so that equine parts shall be deemed unsafe under Sections 409 (Food Additives) and 512 (New Animal Drugs) of the act. The legislation would prohibit the knowing sale or transport of equines or equine parts in interstate or foreign commerce. The legislation notes that equines raised in the United States are frequently treated with substances that are not approved for horses intended for human consumption and equine parts are therefore unsafe within the meaning of section 409 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; and equines raised in the United States are frequently treated with drugs, including phenylbutazone, acepromazine, boldenone undecylenate, omeprazole, ketoprofen, xylazine, hyaluronic acid, nitrofurazone, polysulfated glycosaminoglycan, clenbuterol, tolazoline, and ponazuril, which are not approved for use in horses intended for human consumption and equine parts are therefore unsafe within the meaning of section 512 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

**Status:** Rep. Frank Guinta (R-N.H.-1) introduced H.R. 1942 on April 22, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and House Committee on Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture.

Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) introduced S. 1214 on May 6, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Defeat

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

### H.R. 359, Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act

This legislation would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a five-year pilot program to assess the effectiveness of addressing veterans’ post-deployment mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms through the therapeutic medium of educating those veterans in the training and handling of service dogs for veterans with disabilities.

**Status:** Rep. Steve Stivers (R-Ohio-15) introduced H.R. 359 on January 14, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

**AVMA Position:** No Action

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

### H.R. 3136, The Enforcement Transparency Act

This legislation would require the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to release the guidelines used in the formulation of any civil penalties for violations of the Animal Welfare Act.
Status: Rep. Rob Blum (R-Iowa-1) introduced H.R. 3136 on July 21, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture.

AVMA Position: Support  
Primary Contact: Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

S. 1918, Conserving Ecosystems by Ceasing the Importation of Large (CECIL) Animal Trophies Act
The legislation would amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to extend the import- and export-related provisions of the Endangered Species Act to species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under that Act. The aim of the legislation is to prohibit hunters from importing threatened or endangered species trophies to the United States.

Status: Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) introduced S. 1918 on August 3, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

AVMA Position: No Action  
Primary Contact: Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

H.R. 335, Multinational Species Conservation Funds Reauthorization Act of 2015

Status: Rep. Don Young (D-Alaska-AL) introduced H.R. 936 on January 13, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

AVMA Position: Support  
Primary Contact: Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

H.R. 936, Marine Disease Emergency Act of 2015
The legislation would authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to declare and respond to a marine disease emergency (an event that affects the marine environment, is caused by a marine disease or environmental stressor, is likely to threaten the sustainability of a marine species or the health of a marine ecosystem, and is likely to expand in geographic scope).

Status: Rep. Denny Heck (D-Wash.-10) introduced H.R. 936 on February 12, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and House Committee on Natural Resources.

AVMA Position: Support  
Primary Contact: Dr. Mark Lutschaunig
Food-Related Issues

H.R. 393, To amend the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act to require labeling of genetically engineered fish
This legislation amends the federal FD&C Act to prohibit the sale of food that contains genetically engineered fish unless the food bears a label stating that it contains genetically engineered fish.

Status: Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska-At Large) introduced H.R. 393 on Jan. 14, 2015, and it was referred to the House Energy and Commerce’s Subcommittee on Health.

AVMA Position: Nonsupport  Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

H.R. 394, Prevention of Escapement of Genetically Altered Salmon in the United States Act
This legislation would prevent the escapement of genetically altered salmon in the United States and for other purposes.

Status: Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska-At Large) introduced H.R. 394 on Jan. 14, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources’ Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.

AVMA Position: Nonsupport  Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

H.R. 2303, Pathogen Reduction and Testing Reform Act of 2015
This bill amends the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act to revise the definition of "adulterated" to make explicit the Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) authority to issue a recall of meat, poultry, and egg products that contain microbial pathogens associated with serious illness or death or are resistant to two or more antibiotics critically important for human medicine. The bill requires USDA to establish sampling protocols and testing procedures necessary to determine if meat, poultry, and egg products are adulterated under this bill and to prevent the entry, flow, or movement of those products into commerce.

Status: Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.-3) introduced H.R. 2303 on May 13, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

AVMA Position: Active Pursuit of Defeat  Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

H.R. 1567/S. 1252, Global Food Security Act
This legislation would require the President to develop and implement a Global Food Security Strategy to promote global food security, resilience, and nutrition.

Status: Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.-4) introduced H.R. 1567 on Mar. 24, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. The bill passed the House on April 14, 2016, and it was referred to the Senate.
Sen. Robert Casey (D-Pa.) introduced S. 1252 on May 7, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. The bill passed the Senate on May 7, 2016 and was referred to the House. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs passed the legislation out of committee on May 18, 2016.

AVMA Position: Support

Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

Pharmaceutical Issues

S. 1200/H.R. 3174, Fairness to Pet Owners Act
This legislation is purported to promote competition and help consumers save money by giving them the freedom to choose where they buy prescription pet medications. Veterinarians would be required to provide pet owners with a copy of their pet’s prescription, whether or not requested and prior to offering to fill or dispense the medication. The veterinarian may not require payment for the prescription, require the pet owner to sign a waiver or disclaim liability.

Status: Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Mike Lee (R-Utah) introduced S. 1200 on May 7, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah-3) introduced H.R. 3174 on July 23, 2015, and it was referred to the House Energy and Commerce’s Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade. The Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing on the pet medications industry on April 29, 2016.

AVMA Position: Active Pursuit of Defeat

Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

Resources: For more information see AVMA’s advocacy campaign page, “Prescription writing mandate is unnecessary for veterinarians.”

H.R. 1552, Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act (PAMTA)
This bill would amend the federal FD&C Act to preserve the effectiveness of medically important antimicrobials used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.

Status: Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.-25) introduced H.R. 1552 on March 23, 2015, and it was referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee’s Subcommittee on Health.

AVMA Position: Active Pursuit of Defeat

Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

H.R. 639/S. 481, Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act
This bill amends the federal FD&C Act and the Public Health Service Act to allow the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to delay the effective date of approval of a drug or a biological product for which it has recommended controls under the Controlled Substances Act with the Department of Justice,
until the DOJ issues a final interim rule for the drug. This delay also applies to the conditional approval and indexing of animal drugs. This legislation also amends the Controlled Substances Act to require the DOJ to issue a final interim rule for a drug product recommended for controls by the FDA no later than 90 days after the agency receives a recommendation for controls or the FDA approves the drug. The final interim rule is effective immediately.

**Status:** Rep. Joseph Pitts (R-Pa.-16) introduced **H.R. 639** on Feb. 2, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committees on Energy and Commerce and the Judiciary. Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) introduced **S. 481** on Feb. 2, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Health Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee. On March 16, 2015, the legislation passed in the House and was sent to the Senate, where it was referred to the Senate HELP Committee. On Oct. 25, 2015, the Senate HELP committee discharged the bill by unanimous consent and it went on to pass in the full Senate with an amendment. The House agreed to the amendment without objection on Nov. 11, 2015. The bill was signed into law by the president on Nov. 25, 2015.

**AVMA Position:** Support  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Ashley Morgan

**S. 621, Preventing Antibiotic Resistance Act (PARA) of 2015**

This bill amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to refuse a new animal drug application if the drug is a medically important antimicrobial (used to treat humans) and the applicant fails to demonstrate that the drug meets specified criteria for use in animals, including that: (1) the drug is effective, (2) the drug is targeted to animals at risk of developing a specific bacterial disease, (3) the drug has a defined duration of therapy, and (4) there is reasonable certainty of no harm to human health from microbial resistance to the drug. Sponsors of certain medically important antimicrobials already approved for use in food-producing animals would be required to submit evidence to the FDA that demonstrates that their drug meets the criteria described above for approved indications. The FDA would also be required to withdraw approval for any indication for which the FDA determines there is insufficient evidence that the drug meets the criteria. This bill expresses the sense of the Senate that a veterinarian-client-patient relationship should ensure that medically important antimicrobials are used in food-producing animals in a manner consistent with best practices.

**Status:** Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) introduced S. 621 on March 2, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Defeat  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Ashley Morgan

**H.R. 2459, Delivering Antimicrobial Transparency in Animals (DATA) Act of 2015**

This bill amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise reporting requirements for new animal drugs containing an antimicrobial. Certain live poultry dealers, swine contractors, and feed lot operators who purchase, contract, or manufacture animal feed containing a new antimicrobial animal drug would be required to annually report to the Food and Drug Administration, by food-producing animal, the amount of drug per kilogram of feed and the quantity of feed sold or distributed.
Additional information would also be required for feed sold or distributed under a veterinary feed directive.

**Status:** Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.-25) introduced H.R. 2459 on May 19, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health.

**AVMA Position:** Nonsupport  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Ashley Morgan

**H.R. 5140, VFD Repeal Act**  
The legislation would repeal the final rule entitled “Veterinary Feed Directive” (VFD) published in the Federal Register on June 3, 2015, and the amendments to the Code of Federal Regulations made by such rule. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would also be prohibited from issuing any rule that is the same as or substantially similar. The VFD rule would then exist as it did before the June 2015 changes.

**Status:** Rep. Jason Smith (R-Mo.-8) introduced H.R. 5140 on April 29, 2016, and it was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health.

**AVMA Position:** Nonsupport  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Ashley Morgan

**Research Issues**

**H.R. 746/ S. 388, Animal Welfare in Agricultural Research Endeavors (AWARE) Act**  
This bill will remove the exemption for farm animals used in agricultural research at federal facilities under the Animal Welfare Act, resulting in regular inspections and oversight by the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

**Status:** Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.-3) and Michael Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.-8) introduced H.R. 746 on Feb. 5, 2015, and it was referred to the House Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture.

Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) introduced S. 388 on Feb. 5, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

**AVMA Position:** No Action  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

**S. 2014 / H.R. 3466, Next Generation Researchers Act**  
This legislation would establish the Next Generation of Research Initiative within the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NIH Office of the Director would be charged with coordinating all current and new NIH policies that intend to advance opportunities for new researchers and promote earlier research independence. The bill directs the NIH to consider National Academy of Science recommendations following its study of barriers for entry into biomedical research for early-stage and new researchers. The initiative would be responsible for coordinating all NIH policies and programs aimed at promoting and providing opportunities for new researchers.
Status: On April 4, 2016, S. 2014 was placed on the Senate legislative calendar under general orders. On Feb. 9, 2016 the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions passed the bill. It awaits consideration by the full Senate. Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) introduced the bill on Sept. 9, 2015.

Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wis.-2) introduced H.R. 3466 on Sept. 9, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. On Sept. 11, 2015, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Gina Luke

S. 2624, National Biomedical Research Act
This legislation establishes the Biomedical Innovation Fund which would provide $5 billion annually in new funding for initiatives at research institutions, NIH, and FDA and would supplement yearly appropriations for a variety of functions, including grants for training programs that lead to earlier research independence; improving diversity through research conducted by underrepresented groups, research in labs of varying sizes, and research at institutions in states that could improve the geographic diversity of funding. Additionally, grants will increase understanding of and treatments for cancer; illuminate the underlying basis for diseases, and the establishment of a voluntary national research cohort of a million or more volunteers to facilitate the development of medicine and prevention strategies that can be tailored to people’s unique characteristics; for breakthrough research on diseases with unmet medical needs or for which current treatments are limited, inadequate, or burdensome; as well as to improve the predictability, consistency, and efficiency of the review of medical products and regulatory decision-making.

Status: On March 3, 2016, S. 2624 was introduced by Sen. Elizabeth Warren and was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

AVMA Position: Active Pursuit of Passage
Primary Contact: Gina Luke

S. 697, Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act
This legislation amends the Toxic Substances Control Act, which is the fundamental federal law that regulates the manufacture, processing, distribution in commerce, use, and disposal of chemical substances.

Status: Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) introduced S. 697 on March 10, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Congress passed the bill on Dec. 17, 2015, as an amendment to the House companion bill H.R.2576 - TSCA Modernization Act signed into law June 22, 2016 (H.Rept. 114-176, Public Law No. 114-182).

AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Dr. Mark Lutschaunig
Small Business Issues

**S. 698, Marketplace Fairness Act / H.R. 2775, Remote Transactions Parity Act**
This legislation gives states the option to require out-of-state businesses, such as those selling pet medicine, pet products or equipment, pet detergents or other pet products online or through catalogs, to collect and use taxes already owed under state law the same way local businesses do.

**Status:** Sen. Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) introduced **S. 698** on March 10, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah-3) introduced **H.R. 2775** on June 15, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. On July 1, 2015, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law.

**AVMA Position:** Support  
**Primary Contact:** Gina Luke

**H.R. 636, America’s Small Business Tax Relief Act**
This legislation enhances Section 179 of the IRS tax code by making it permanent and allowing businesses to immediately deduct the full price of qualifying business equipment and machinery, including: certain vehicles (over 6,000 pounds), computers and software, office furniture, and other depreciable assets up to $500,000 in the year that it is purchased rather than depreciating the cost over time. Learn more about Section 179 [here](#).

**Status:** Rep. Patrick Tiberi (R-Ohio-12) introduced **H.R. 636** on Feb. 2, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committees on Ways and Means and Budget. It passed the House on Feb. 13, 2015, and was later folded into the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2015 (**H.R. 2029**), which funds the federal government for fiscal 2016 and deals with 52 varying tax provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. The president signed H.R. 2029 into law on Dec. 18, 2015 (Public Law 114-113).

**AVMA Position:** Support  
**Primary Contact:** Gina Luke

**H.R. 3185/S. 1858, The Equality Act of 2015**
This legislation amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to include protections banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The Civil Rights Act (Public Law 88-352) outlaws discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. In addition, the law ended unequal application of voter registration requirements and racial segregation in schools, in the workplace and by facilities servicing the general public.

**Status:** Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) introduced **S. 1858** on July 23, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

Rep. David Cicilline (D-R.I.-1) introduced **H.R. 3185** on July 23, 2015, and it was referred to five House Committees—Judiciary, Education and the Workforce, Financial Services, Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the speaker. On
Sept. 8, 2015, the bill was referred to the Judiciary’s Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

**AVMA Position:** Support  
**Primary Contact:** Gina Luke

**H.R. 6094, Regulatory Relief for Small Businesses, Schools and Nonprofits Act**
This legislation provides for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor (DOL) relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees. The DOL overtime rule, issued on May 18, takes effect starting Dec. 1. Exempt salaried employees earning less than $47,476 a year will qualify for time-and-a-half when they work more than 40 hours a week. The previous threshold to qualify for overtime pay for these workers, last set in 2004, was $23,476.

**Status:** On Sept. 28, 2016, H.R. 6094 was passed in the U.S. House of Representatives 246-177. The bill was introduced by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI-7) a week earlier on Sept. 21, 2016.

**AVMA Position:** Support  
**Primary Contact:** Gina Luke

**H.R. 4773/S. 2707, Protecting Workplace Advancement and Opportunity Act**
This legislation requires the Secretary of Labor to nullify the proposed rule regarding defining and delimiting the exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees. The legislation also requires the Secretary of Labor to conduct a full and complete economic analysis with improved economic data on small businesses, nonprofit employers, Medicare or Medicaid dependent health care providers, and small governmental jurisdictions, and all other employers, and minimize the impact on such employers, before promulgating any substantially similar rule, and to provide a rule of construction regarding the salary threshold exemption under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1938, and for other purposes.

**Status:** On March 17, 2016, the bicameral legislation was introduced by Rep. John Kline (R-MN-2) and Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.). H.R. 4773 was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, while S. 2707 was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

**AVMA Position:** Support  
**Primary Contact:** Gina Luke

**H.R. 5813, Overtime Reform and Enhancement Act**
AVMA supports legislation (H.R. 5813) introduced on July 14, 2016 by Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore-5) that would provide a four-step phase-in for the increase to the salary threshold and eliminate a three-year automatic increase to the salary threshold. The annual increases under the four-step phase-in would be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Salary Threshold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1, 2016</td>
<td>$35,984 ($692/week)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1, 2017</td>
<td>$39,780 ($765/week)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1, 2018</td>
<td>$43,628 ($839/week)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 1, 2019</td>
<td>$47,476 ($913/week)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Status: On July 14, 2016, Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.-5) introduced H.R. 5813 and it was then referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

AVMA Position: Support

Primary Contact: Gina Luke

H.R. 932/S. 497, Healthy Families Act
The bill establishes a minimum time-off standard for paid sick leave for both full-time and part-time employees. Employers with 15 or more employees would be required to provide workers with up to 56 hours (or seven days) of paid sick leave each year. Workers would earn one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked. Workers at businesses with fewer than 15 employees would be able to earn up to seven job-protected days of unpaid sick leave annually. Employers that already provide paid sick time will not be required to change their current policies, as long as they meet the minimum standards outlined in the legislation. Employers can also require workers to provide documentation supporting any request for leave longer than three consecutive days.

Status: On Feb. 12, 2016, the bicameral legislation was introduced by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-3) and Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA). H.R. 932 was referred to the House Committees on Administration; Education and the Workforce; and Oversight and Government Reform while S. 497 was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

AVMA Position: No Action

Primary Contact: Gina Luke

(TBD bill #), Veterinarian Payments Sunshine Act
The Veterinarian Payments Sunshine Act is a draft legislative proposal that would require manufacturers of drugs and medical devices to report certain payments and items of value given to covered recipients. These recipients include veterinarians; hospitals offering an internship, a residency, or other postgraduate training in veterinary medicine; and accredited veterinary schools or students at such schools.

Payments and items of value to be reported include a transfer of anything of value which is more than $10 or exceeds $100 in the calendar year. The term “payment or other transfer of value” does not include anything made indirectly to a covered recipient through a third party in connection with an activity or service in the case where the manufacturer is unaware of the identity of the covered recipient.

Status: Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.-25) has not yet introduced this bill in Congress. The AVMA took a position of “no action” on the bill language as shared with the association in Jan. 2016.

AVMA Position: No Action

Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan
Veterinary Professional and Educational Issues

S. 440 / H.R. 3095, Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Enhancement Act
The VMLRP provides loan repayment to veterinarians who agree to practice in shortage situations across the country, as designated by the USDA. This legislation would make the VMLRP loan repayment awards exempt from a federal withholding tax, allowing more veterinarians the opportunity to participate in the program. Currently, awards are subject to 39 percent withholding tax.

Status: Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) introduced S. 440 on Feb. 10, 2015, and it was referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

Rep. Adrian Smith (R-Neb.-3) introduced H.R. 3095 on July 16, 2015, and it was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

AVMA Position: Active Pursuit of Passage       Primary Contact: Gina Luke

H.R. 509, Student Loan Interest Deduction Act
This legislation would expand the student loan interest deduction by increasing the maximum tax deduction from $2,500 to $5,000 for individuals ($10,000 for joint filers) and would repeal the income-based phase-outs of $65,000 for individuals ($130,000 for joint filers) in the current deduction.

Status: Rep. Charlie Rangel (D-N.Y.-13) introduced H.R. 509 on Jan. 22, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

AVMA Position: Active Pursuit of Passage       Primary Contact: Gina Luke

H.R. 649, Student Loan Refinancing Act
This legislation would remove the current restrictions on refinancing and allow anyone with a subsidized or unsubsidized federal Stafford loan, or a federal direct PLUS loan, to refinance their student loans whenever borrowing rates are reduced. These loan programs are administered by the U.S. Department of Education. At present, refinancing is only available from private lenders.

Status: Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Wis.-2) introduced H.R. 649 on Feb. 2, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. On April 29, 2015, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

AVMA Position: Active Pursuit of Passage       Primary Contact: Gina Luke

H.R.3861/S.2457, Employer Participation in Student Loan Assistance Act
Extends the tax exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance to include payments of education loans paid to either an employee or a lender; and permits employers to put as much as $5,500/year pretax towards an employee’s student loans.

AVMA Position: Active Pursuit of Passage

Primary Contact: Gina Luke

**H.R. 1285, Eliminating the Hidden Student Loan Tax Act**

This legislation would end the practice of charging origination fees on all Direct Loans for undergraduate students, graduate students, and parents, with a proposed implementation date of July 1, 2015.

Status: Rep. Susan Davis (D-Calif.-53) introduced H.R. 1285 on March 4, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. On April 29, 2015, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

AVMA Position: Active Pursuit of Passage

Primary Contact: Gina Luke

**H.R. 2269, Wildlife VET Act**

This bill aims to expand the workforce of veterinarians specialized in the care and conservation of wild animals by: developing educational programs focused on wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine; creating newly funded positions for wildlife and zoo clinical and research veterinarians; creating a loan repayment program to help limit the amount of educational debt of veterinary medical students that go into wildlife or zoological medicine; providing incentives to study and practice wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine; helping schools and colleges of veterinary medicine develop pilot curricula to train students in the health management of wildlife in their natural environment and in captivity; and by expanding the number of educational and training programs in wildlife and zoological medicine for veterinary students.

Status: Rep. Alcee Hasdings (D-Fla.-20) introduced H.R. 2269 on May 27, 2015, and it was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture’s Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture and to the House Committee on Natural Resources. On June 6, 2015, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

AVMA Position: Support

Primary Contact: Gina Luke

**(TBD Bill #) Draft State Licensing Board Antitrust Act**

This draft bill would shield state professional and licensing boards and their staff members from damage awards (trebled under the antitrust laws) and the award of attorney’s fees in damage litigation. This legislation is being considered in an effort to remedy an issue that was created as a result of a February 2015 Supreme Court ruling against the North Carolina dental board. As a result of this ruling, members of a profession who volunteer to serve on a state licensure board have been opened up to personal liability for damages associated with alleged anti-competitive actions.

Status: The bill has not been introduced.

AVMA Position: Support

Primary Contact: Mark Lutschaunig
More Information

Get the latest information on current legislative issues by signing up for the monthly e-newsletter *The AVMA Advocate* and by visiting AVMA’s website under the “Advocacy” tab. You can take action on any of these bills by visiting AVMA’s Congressional Advocacy Network (AVMA-CAN) Web page. Be sure to follow the AVMA-CAN on Twitter [@AVMACAN](https://twitter.com/AVMACAN) and Facebook at [facebook.com/avmacan](https://www.facebook.com/avmacan).