**AVMA in the news: Advocating for rural veterinary care**

AVMA is getting the word out about why Congress needs to take action on rural veterinary shortages by passing the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act. AVMA President Dr. John Howe recently penned an op-ed in *The Hill* about this important issue and spoke with the Brownfield Ag news network. You can also hear from AVMA Immediate Past-President Dr. John de Jong in a recent *Associated Press* article.

You can add your voice to this issue too, by using AVMA’s online tools to quickly send a letter to your members of Congress. These letters are easy to send and can make a huge difference.

[Write Congress](#)

**USDA NIFA accepting nominations for veterinary service shortage situations**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture is currently soliciting nominations of veterinary service shortage situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program. If you would like to provide input, you can contact your state veterinarian. [Learn more >](#)
USDA APHIS announces implementation of 2018 Farm Bill animal health provisions

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) is now beginning the process of implementing key animal health provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill, including $10 million in funding for the new National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program and existing National Animal Health Laboratory Health Laboratory Network In 2019. The agency is also gathering information regarding supply for the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank.

AVMA worked closely with Congress to secure these provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill, and we are looking forward to continuing our work with USDA to ensure their success.

Read our statement

AVMA continues PSLF advocacy

A new report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office shows that 99% of applicants for Temporary Expanded Public Service Loan Forgiveness (TEPSLF) — designed by Congress to address eligibility concerns with the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program — have been rejected. AVMA is continuing our efforts to communicate our members’ concerns to the U.S. Department of Education and Congress. If you’ve applied for PSLF or TEPSLF and not received forgiveness, we want to hear from you.

Share your story

AVMA advocacy tip

If you’re concerned about a legislative issue, writing to your local newspaper is a quick and easy way to educate the public on the veterinary perspective — and to reach your local representatives. Most letters to the editor are only around 200 words. If you have questions, you can always email the AVMA. We’re happy to help!

Visit AVMA CAN for more advocacy opportunities

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