American Veterinary Medical Association

112th Congress Legislative Agenda

The AVMA’s Governmental Relations Division 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.

**Appropriations**

AVMA prioritizes some programs administered by the USDA agencies as “active pursuits of passage” and other programs as “support passage” with coalition partners (this is not an exhaustive list of all “support” programs).

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<tr>
<td>Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program</td>
<td>$4,790,000</td>
<td>Active Pursuit</td>
<td>Level funding</td>
<td>$4,694,000</td>
<td>$4,790,000</td>
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<td>Animal Plant Health Inspection Service</td>
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<td>Active Pursuit</td>
<td>Level funding</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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**Status:** Congress has given itself until March 29, 2013 to make final determinations on fiscal year 2013 funding. During the 112th Congress, S. 2375 was passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee on 4/26 (SRpt. 112-163). H.R. 5973 was passed the House Appropriations Committee on 6/19 (HRpt. 112-542). S. 2375 provides $20.8 billion in discretionary spending while H.R. 5973 provides $19.4 billion in discretionary funding.

**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Passage

**Primary Contact:** Gina Luke

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**Animal Welfare/Human Animal Bond Issues**


Amends the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit any person from knowingly attending an animal fighting venture or causing a minor to attend such a venture. Sets civil and criminal penalties for violation.

**Status:** H.R. 2492 was introduced 7/11/11 and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry, and in addition to the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. Language similar to H.R. 2492 has been incorporated into H.R. 6083, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2012. S. 1947 was introduced 12/6/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. S. 1947 passed the Senate by voice vote with an amendment on 12/4/12. Language similar to S. 1947 has been incorporated into S. 3240, the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act. Language similar to H.R. 2492 has been incorporated into H.R. 6083, the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2012.

**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Passage

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

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**H.R. 2966/S. 1176, The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011**

Amends the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption; gives the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to detain for examination, testing, or taking of evidence, any horse at any horse show, horse
exhibition, or horse sale that the Secretary has probable cause to believe is sore or headed to slaughter for human consumption; and, to raise the authorization of appropriations from $500,000 to $5,000,000.

**Status:** H.R. 2966 was introduced 9/19/11 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, and in addition to the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry. S. 1176 was introduced 6/9/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Defeat

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**H.R. 6388, Horse Protection Act Amendments**

This bill amends the Horse Protection Act (HPA) to designate additional unlawful acts, strengthen penalties for violations, improve USDA enforcement, and for other purposes. Specific provisions include: defines “action device” to include any boot, collar, chain, roller, or other device that encircles or is placed upon the lower extremity of the leg of a horse; clarifies that the term “management” includes the sponsoring organization and the event manager; creates a penalty structure that requires horses to be disqualified for increasing periods of time based on number of violations (from 180 days to 3 years); requires USDA to license, train, assign and oversee inspectors enforcing the HPA; makes the actual act of soring illegal or directing another person to cause a horse to become sore; prohibits use of action devices on any limb of Tennessee Walking Horses, Spotted Saddle horses, or Racking horses at horse shows, exhibitions, sales or auctions; also bans weighted shoes, pads, wedges, hoof bands, or other devices that is not strictly protective or therapeutic in nature; increases civil and criminal penalties for violation; also allows for periods of time banned from participating in shows, exhibitions, sales or auctions for one or more violations; allows for permanent disqualification for violators on their third or higher violation.

**Status:** H.R. 6388 was introduced 9/13/12 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Passage

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**S. 1281, The Horse Transportation Safety Act of 2011**

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 forth civil penalties for persons who knowingly violate such prohibition.

**Status:** S. 1281 was introduced 12/6/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Passage

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**H.R. 198, Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act**

Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program for assessing the effectiveness of addressing post-deployment mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms through a therapeutic medium of service dog training and handling for veterans with disabilities. Requires such program to be carried out at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers that can provide training areas for such purposes.

**Status:** Introducled 1/6/11, referred to Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Health.

**AVMA Position:** No Action

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**H.R. 835/ S. 707, Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety (PUPS) Act**

Amends the Animal Welfare Act to require licensing and inspection of dog breeders who sell more than 50 dogs per year directly to the public. In addition, the legislation requires that dogs in commercial breeding facilities have appropriate space and opportunity for daily exercise.


**AVMA Position:** Support

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**H.R. 943, K-9 Companion Corps Act**

Establishes a grant program to encourage the use of assistance dogs by certain members of the Armed Forces and veterans with certain recognized disabilities.

**Status:** Introduced 3/8/11, referred to Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness with subsequent referral to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

**AVMA Position:** Support

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller
H.R. 1154, Veterans Equal Treatment for Service Dogs (VETS) Act
Restricts the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to prohibit the use of service dogs in or on any VA facility or property that receives VA funding.
Status: H.R. 1154 was introduced 3/17/11 and referred to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Health.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

Prohibits the conducting of invasive research on great apes, the use of federal funds to conduct invasive research on great apes, and the breeding of great apes for the purpose of conducting invasive research. It also requires permanent retirement of all federally-owned great apes to suitable sanctuaries. The AVMA is concerned that there is no funding mechanism for the long-term care of animals that will be placed into permanent retirement and that research focused on improving the health and welfare of affected species that is currently being conducted in zoological settings may be hindered.
Status: H.R. 1513 was introduced 4/13/11 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health. S. 810 was introduced 4/13/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Senate Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife legislative hearing held 4/24/12. Ordered to be reported favorably by committee with amendment 7/25/12.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.R. 1733/S. 886, The Interstate Horseracing Improvement Act of 2011
Amends the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 to prohibit the use of performance-enhancing drugs in horses on race-day in races subject interstate off-track wagering. Requires host racing associations to implement policies that prohibit the use of performance-enhancing drugs, bans horses from racing that are under the influence of performance-enhancing drugs, and requires the use of accredited labs and testing regimes. Lays out civil penalties and suspensions from racing for violators. The AVMA is concerned with the overly-broad definition of performance-enhancing drug in this legislation, as well as the lack of authorization of appropriations for conducting required provisions.
Status: H.R. 1733 was introduced 5/4/11 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade. S. 886 was introduced 5/4/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.R. 2074, Veterans Sexual Assault Prevention and Health Care Enhancement Act
This bill includes language from legislation with AVMA policy. Identical language is included from H.R. 1154, the Veterans Equal Treatment for Service Dogs Act, of which AVMA is supportive. Amended language is included from H.R. 198, the Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act, on which the AVMA took the position of “no action”. Section 5: Prohibits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) restricting the use of service dogs in or on any VA facility or property or any facility or property that receives VA funding (language from H.R. 1154). Section 6: Directs the Secretary of the VA to carry out a 3-year pilot program for assessing the effectiveness of using dog training activities as a component of integrated post-deployment mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder rehabilitation programs. Requires review and consideration of recommendations published by Assistance Dogs International, International Guide Dog Federation, or other comparable experts on basic dog training. Also requires established partnerships with similar organizations. Sets data collection and reporting requirements.
Status: H.R. 2074 was introduced 6/1/11 and referred to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Health. Legislative hearing 7/25/11. Subcommittee mark-up on 7/28/11, forwarded to full committee. Full committee mark-up 9/8/11, ordered to be reported amended. Amended bill passed by House on 10/11/11. Received in Senate 10/12/11 and referred to Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.
AVMA Position: No Action
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.R. 2210, Sportsmanship in Hunting Act of 2011
This bill would amend the federal criminal code to prohibit knowingly (1) transferring, transporting, or possessing a confined exotic animal for purposes of allowing the killing or injuring of that animal for entertainment or for the collection of a trophy; (2) making available a computer-assisted remote hunt. Defines “confined exotic animal” as a mammal of a species not indigenous to the United States that has been held in captivity for the majority of its life or a continuous period of one year.
Status: H.R. 2210 was introduced 6/16/11 and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
AVMA Position: No Action
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

Amends the Animal Welfare Act to list permissible sources of dogs and cats used by research facilities to include dogs and cats obtained: (1) from a licensed dealer, (2) from a publicly owned and operated pound or shelter that meets specific requirements, (3) by donation from a person who bred and raised the dog or cat and owned it for not less than one year, or (4) from a research facility licensed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Prohibits dealers from selling or otherwise providing any research facility with random source dogs or cats unless specified requirements are met.
Status: H.R. 2256 was introduced 6/21/11 and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.R. 2997/S. 1729, Superfund Common Sense Act
Amends the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) to exclude manure from the definition of "hazardous substance" and "pollutant or contaminant" for purposes of such Act. Defines "manure" to mean: (1) digestive emissions, feces, urine, urea and other excrement from livestock; (2) any associated bedding, compost, raw materials or other materials commingled with such excrement from livestock; (3) any process water associated with such items; and (4) any byproducts, constituents, or substances contained in, or originating from, such items or any emissions relating to such items. Amends the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 to exempt from notification requirements releases associated with manure.
Status: H.R. 2997 was introduced 9/21/11 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy, and in addition to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment. The Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy held a hearing on 6/25/2012. S. 1729 was introduced 10/18/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.R. 3359, Traveling Exotic Animal Protection Act
This bill would amend the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) so that no exhibitor may allow for the participation of an exotic or wild animal (including a non-human primate) in an animal act if that animal had traveled in a mobile housing facility in the previous 15 days. The law shall not apply to accredited zoos and aquariums with certain restrictions; a university, college, laboratory or other facility registered pursuant to section 6 of AWA; animals to be used for film, television or advertising; or rodeos.
Status: H.R. 3359 was introduced 11/3/11 and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.R. 3704, Downed Animal and Food Safety Protection Act
This bill would amend the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958 to require that all nonambulatory livestock in interstate and foreign commerce be immediately and humanely euthanized when such livestock become nonambulatory. Allows for disease testing of such nonambulatory livestock prior to humane euthanasia.
Status: H.R. 3704 was introduced 12/16/11 and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.R. 3798/S. 3239, Egg Products Inspection Act Amendments of 2012
Amends the Egg Products Inspection Act to provide a uniform standard for the housing and treatment of egg-laying hens. Provisions in the legislation include: a phase-in of required floor space and adequate environmental enrichments (known as enriched colony housing); a prohibition on feed- and water-withdrawal induced/forced molting; sets the level of acceptable air quality as not more than 25ppm of ammonia; requires the use of euthanasia methods deemed “acceptable” by the AVMA; sets labeling definitions that indicate the type of housing that the egg-laying hens were provided during egg production; and a phase-in for conversion of production percentage of hens [industry-wide] that must be housed according to new standards.
Status: H.R. 3798 was introduced 1/23/12, referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry. S. 3239 was introduced 5/24/12 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Legislative hearing held 7/26/12.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller
H.R. 4103/S. 2134, Canine Members of the Armed Forces Act
This bill would amend 10, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements relating to the retirement, adoption, care, and recognition of military working dogs (MWDs). Specifics of the bill: change the classification of MWDs from equipment to ‘canine members of the armed forces’; allows for transfers of retired MWDs not suitable for adoption; requires Secretary of Defense to establish and maintain a system to provide for veterinary care of retired MWDs; allows for the contract of such system of veterinary care to be awarded to a private non-profit entity; establishes standards of care such system of veterinary care must meet; lays out who shall pay for the costs of the system of veterinary care, which does not allow for the use of federal funds; and directs the Secretary of Defense to create a decoration or other appropriate recognition for MWDs that are killed in action or perform an exceptionally meritorious or courageous act in service to the US.
Status: H.R. 4103 was introduced 2/28/12 and referred to the House Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Readiness. S. 2134 was introduced 2/27/12 and referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services.
AVMA Position: No Action
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.R. 4214, Compound 1080 and Sodium Cyanide Elimination Act
Amends the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to prohibit the use, production, sale, importation, or exportation of sodium fluoracetate (known as Compound 1080). Prohibits the use of sodium cyanide in a predator control device. Subjects a violator of either such prohibition to a fine, imprisonment for not more than two years, or both.
Status: H.R. 4214 was introduced 3/20/12 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.R. 4306/S. 1324, Captive Primate Safety Act
This bill amends the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to add nonhuman primates to the definition of “prohibited wildlife species” for purposes of the prohibition against the sale or purchase of such species in interstate and foreign commerce. The bill makes it unlawful for a person to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase a live animal of any prohibited wildlife species in interstate or foreign commerce (i.e., for pet trade purposes). Sets forth exceptions to such prohibition, including, under certain conditions, for: (1) transporting a nonhuman primate to or from a veterinarian; (2) transporting a nonhuman primate to a legally designated caregiver as a result of the death of the preceding owner; and (3) transporting a single primate of the genus Cebus that was obtained from and trained by a charitable organization to assist a permanently disabled individual with a severe mobility impairment. The exception for the use of nonhuman primates as service animals conflicts directly with the AVMA policy on Nonhuman Primates as Assistance Animals, and indirectly with the AVMA policy on Private Ownership of Wild Animals.
Status: H.R. 4306 was introduced 3/29/12 and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs. S. 1324 was introduced 7/5/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported favorably by committee without amendment 6/21/12.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

S. 1838, VA Service Dog Training Pilot Program
This bill directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to commence a three-year pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of using service dog training activities as components of integrated post-deployment mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) rehabilitation programs at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers to positively affect veterans with such symptoms and to produce specially trained service dogs for veterans. Requires consideration of VA medical centers in rural or highly rural states. Makes veteran participation voluntary. Requires the Secretary to: (1) collect program data to determine its effectiveness, as well as the advisability of expanding the program to additional VA medical centers; and (2) report annually to Congress for the duration of the pilot program.
Status: S. 1838 introduced 11/9/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. Legislative hearing held 6/27/12.
AVMA Position: No Action
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.Res. 220, National Animal Rescue Day Resolution
Expresses support for the designation of the first Saturday in October as “National Animal Rescue Day” to create awareness, educated humans of the importance of adoption, and create a humane environment for any pet, including the importance of spaying and neutering of animals, and encouragement of animal adoptions throughout the United States.
Status: H.Res. 220 was introduced 4/12/11 and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.
AVMA Position: No Action
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**H.Res. 736, Expressing Opposition to Gas Chambers**
Expresses: (1) disapproval of the use of gas chambers to euthanize shelter animals, and (2) support for the enactment of state laws requiring the use of euthanasia by injection with sodium pentobarbital as the standard method of euthanasia for all animal shelters. Encourages states to allow licensed shelters to purchase necessary euthanasia drugs, subject to appropriate training and certification.

*Status:* H.Res. 736 was introduced 7/19/12 and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

*AVMA Position:* No Action

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**Aquaculture**

**H.R. 520/ S. 229, Amends the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to require labeling of genetically-engineered fish.**
Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to deem a food to be misbranded if it contains genetically-engineered fish unless the food bears a label stating that it contains genetically-engineered fish.

*Status:* H.R. 520 was introduced 2/08/11 and referred to Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health. S. 229 was introduced 1/31/11 and referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

*AVMA Position:* Nonsupport

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Ashley Morgan

**H.R. 521/S. 230, Amends Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to prevent the approval of genetically-engineered fish.**
Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to deem genetically-engineered fish to be unsafe under provisions related to new animal drugs and adulterated food.

*Status:* H.R. 521 was introduced 2/15/11 and referred to Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health. S. 230 was introduced 1/31/11 and referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

*AVMA Position:* Nonsupport

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Ashley Morgan

**H.R. 2373, National Sustainable Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2011**
This bill would establish a regulatory system for sustainable offshore aquaculture in the United States exclusive economic zone; authorized the Secretary of Commerce to determine appropriate locations for, permit, regulate, monitor, and enforce offshore aquaculture in the exclusive economic zone; requires the Secretary of Commerce to issue regulations for permitting of offshore aquaculture in the exclusive economic zone that prevent impacts on marine ecosystem and fisheries or minimize such impacts to the extent that they cannot be avoided; establishes a research program to guide the precautionary development of offshore aquaculture in the exclusive economic zone that ensures ecological sustainability and compatibility with healthy, functional ecosystems.

*Status:* H.R. 2373 was introduced 6/24/11 and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs.

*AVMA Position:* Nonsupport

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**S. 1717, Prevention of Escapement of Genetically Altered Salmon in the United States Act**
This legislation is purported to prevent the escapement of genetically altered salmon by prohibiting the sale of genetically altered salmon. The legislation would make it unlawful for a person to (1) ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, or purchase genetically altered salmon or other marine fish, or a product containing genetically altered salmon or other marine fish, in interstate or foreign commerce; or (2) have custody, control, or possession of, with the intent to ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, or purchase genetically altered salmon or other marine fish, or a product containing genetically altered salmon or other marine fish, in interstate or foreign commerce.

*Status:* S. 1717 was introduced 10/17/11 and referred to Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*AVMA Position:* Nonsupport

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Ashley Morgan

**Environmental/Conservation Issues**

**H.R. 892/S. 471, Stop Asian Carp Act**
Requires the Secretary of the Army to study the feasibility of the hydrological separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Basins. The study must be completed within 18 months of enactment.

AVMA Position: Support

Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.R. 50, Multinational Species Conservation Funds Reauthorization Act of 2011


AVMA Position: Support

Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.R. 1760, Great Ape Conservation Reauthorization Amendments Act of 2011

Authorizes appropriations to carry out the Great Ape Conservation Fund for FY12-FY17. Amends the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 to allow the awarding of multi-year grants. Requires the Secretary of the Interior to convene a panel of experts to identify the greatest needs and priorities for the conservation of great apes.


AVMA Position: Support

Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.R. 1761, Marine Turtle Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2011

Authorizes appropriations to carry out the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund for FY12-FY17. Expands marine turtle conservation assistance under the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 to include the United States and its territories.


AVMA Position: Support

Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.R. 1558/S. 838, Hunting, Fishing, and Recreational Shooting Act

This bill would amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to exclude from the definition of "chemical substance" for purposes of such Act: (1) any component of any pistol, revolver, firearm, shell, or cartridge the sale of which is subject to federal excise tax, including shot, bullets and other projectiles, propellants, and primers; and (2) any sport fishing equipment the sale of which is subject to federal excise tax and sport fishing equipment components.

Status: H.R. 1558 was introduced 4/14/11 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy.  S. 838 was introduced 4/14/2011 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

AVMA Position: Nonsupport

Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller


This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to Louisiana to pay the federal share of the cost of a pilot program to: (1) study the damage to wetlands in Louisiana caused by feral swine, and (2) develop methods to eradicate or control feral swine and to restore damaged wetlands. Requires the Secretary to ensure that the pilot program uses the knowledge and expertise gained through activities carried out under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and
Restoration Act and the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003. Limits: (1) the federal share of total pilot program costs to 75%, and (2) the amount of the federal financial assistance that may be used for administrative expenses to 10%.

**Status:** H.R. 1828 was introduced 5/11/11 and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs. S. 838 was introduced 5/5/2011 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported favorably without amendment by committee on 9/21/11.

**AVMA Position:** Support

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**H.R. 1829/S. 899, Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2011**
This bill amends the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 to revise the nutria eradication program by authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to provide financial assistance to Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington (currently only to Maryland and Louisiana). Establishes the goals of such Program as: (1) eradicating nutria in Maryland; (2) eradicating or controlling nutria in Louisiana, Delaware, North Carolina, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington; and (3) restoring wetlands damaged by nutria. Authorizes appropriations for FY2012-FY2016. Requires the Secretary and the National Invasive Species Council to develop long-term nutria control or eradication programs to: (1) significantly reduce and restore nutria damaged wetlands in Delaware, Oregon, North Carolina, Virginia, and Washington; and (2) promote voluntary, public-private partnerships to eradicate or control nutria and restore nutria-damaged wetlands in such states.

**Status:** H.R. 1829 was introduced 5/11/11 and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs. S. 899 was introduced 5/5/2011 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Reported favorably with amendment by committee on 11/15/11.

**AVMA Position:** Support

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**H.R. 2546, Medical Waste Management Act of 2011**
This bill would amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to: (1) revise the definition of "medical waste"; (2) require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to promulgate regulations listing types of medical waste; and (3) require the Administrator to conduct a medical waste management program to protect human health and the environment from medical waste and promulgate regulations on tracking, labeling, packaging, storing, handling, monitoring, and disposing of medical waste. Requires generators of medical waste to: (1) provide waste transporters with written assurance that the generator has complied with labeling, packaging, and storage requirements and a manifest form for transporting such waste; (2) register with the Administrator; and (3) provide the Administrator with the names of all waste transporters.

**Status:** H.R. 2546 was introduced 7/14/11 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy.

**AVMA Position:** Nonsupport

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**H.R. 3074, Cormorant Management and Natural Resources Protection Act**
This bill would amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to delegate States the authorities of the Secretary of the Interior under that Act with respect to cormorants. Management plans for control of cormorant populations will be submitted to and approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Requires the Secretary of the Interior, with the consultation of APHIS and the National Aquaculture Information Center, to conduct educational and information activities for aquaculture facilities to help improve their efforts to prevent cormorant from consuming aquatic species raised in aquaculture facilities.

**Status:** H.R. 3074 was introduced 10/3/11 and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs. Subcommittee legislative hearing on 3/29/12.

**AVMA Position:** No Action

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**S. 3208/H.R. 3510, Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Reauthorization Act**
This bill would reauthorize the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp Act of 2010 for 4 additional years, and allow for 5 stamp depictions, including an African or Asian elephant, a rhinoceros, a tiger, a marine turtle, or a great ape.
**Status:** H.R. 3510 was introduced 11/29/11 and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs. S. 3208 was introduced 5/21/12 and referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

**AVMA Position:** Support

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**H.R. 4122/S. 3547, Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act**

This legislation would amend the Lacey Act to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species. The bill would prohibit private possession of big cats except at certain facilities, such as accredited zoos. It requires any persons who currently possess big cats to register those animals with USDA in order to keep the cats they currently own. The bill would also outlaw the breeding of any big cat except at accredited zoos and research and educational institutions. Violators of the law could have their animals confiscated along with any vehicles or equipment used to aid in their illegal activity, and could face penalties including fines as much as $20,000, and up to five years in jail.

**Status:** H.R. 4122 was introduced 3/9/12 and referred to House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs. S. 3547 was introduced 9/13/12 and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

**AVMA Position:** Nonsupport

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**S. 357, Wildlife Disease Emergency Act of 2011**

Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to declare a wildlife disease emergency and to coordinate rapid response to those emergencies. Establishes in the Treasury a Wildlife Disease Emergency Fund. Directs the Secretary of the Interior to establish a Wildlife Disease Committee to assist in increasing the level of preparedness needed to address emerging wildlife diseases.

**Status:** S. 357 was introduced 2/15/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife legislative hearing held 4/24/12. Ordered to be reported favorably by committee with amendment 7/25/12.

**AVMA Position:** Support

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**S.Res. 132, Recognizing and Honoring Zoos and Aquariums in the United States**

Recognizes U.S. zoos and aquariums and commends their employees and volunteers. Calls for continued support for accredited zoos and aquariums and their conservation, education, and recreation programs.

**Status:** S.Res. 284 was introduced 4/6/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Discharged from committee by unanimous consent 11/8/11. Passed Senate by Unanimous Consent 11/8/11.

**AVMA Position:** Support

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**H.R. 511, Amends Title 18 USC to prohibit the importation of various injurious species of constrictor snakes.**

Amends the federal criminal code to prohibit the importation of various species of constrictor snakes.

**Status:** H.R. 511 introduced 1/26/11, referred to Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. Committee mark-up held 2/28/12, ordered to be reported amended by voice vote.

**AVMA Position:** No Action

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

**H.Res. 284, Honoring Wild Horses and Burros Resolution**

Recognizes wild horses and burros as living symbols of the western development area. Honors the 16th birthday of Cloud, a wild stallion.

**Status:** H.Res. 284 was introduced 5/26/11 and referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. On 9/1/11 it was recalled by the full committee.

**AVMA Position:** No Action

**Primary Contact:** Dr. Whitney Miller

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**Farm Bill reauthorization from 2013-2017**

9-month Extension of the 2008 Farm Bill passed as part of the American Tax Relief Act of 2012

H.R. 6083, Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2012

S. 3240, Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act
Status: The President signed H.R. 8 into law on January 2, 2013, which extends for 9-month the 2008 Farm Bill. Constraints on the crowded legislative calendar, along with rancorous political infighting over the “fiscal cliff” in combination with numerous differences between the bills (S. 3240 and H.R. 6083) led to inaction on a new 5-year reauthorization. The Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2012 (H.R. 6083) was marked up and passed (35-11) by the House Agriculture Committee on 7/12/12. H.R. 6083 cut $35 billion from nutrition and farm programs over a decade. The Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act (S. 3240) was passed by the full Senate (64-35) on 6/21/12. S. 3240 cut $23 billion over 10 years.

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

Food Safety

H.R. 4296/S. 496, Catfish Inspection Repeal
This bill repeals a provision of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act establishing an inspection and grading program for catfish and other species of farm-raised fish shellfish.
Status: H.R. 4296 was introduced 3/29/12 and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry. S. 496 was introduced 3/7/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.
AVMA Position: No Action
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

S. 1157, Foodborne Illness Reduction Act
Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to provide retail establishments with information describing recalled meat, poultry, eggs, and related food products, to require the retail establishment to communicate the recall information to consumers, requires the Food Safety Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture to protect against certain foodborne illnesses, and for other purposes.
Status: S. 1157 was introduced on 6/8/11 and referred to Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

H.R. 3553, Genetically Engineered Food Right to Know Act
The legislation amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), the Federal Meat Inspection Act, and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to deem a food misbranded if it contains or was produced with a genetically engineered material unless its labeling contains statements meeting specified requirements. The legislation also requires the periodic testing of such foods transferred along a chain of distribution to assure accuracy of labels, subject to specified exceptions.
Status: H.R. 3553 was introduced on 12/09/11 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, and the Agriculture Committee.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

H.R. 1830/ S. 1955, To Authorize The Interstate Traffic of Unpasteurized Milk and Milk Products That Are Packaged For Direct Human Consumption
The legislation would prohibit any federal department, agency, or court from taking any action that would prohibit, interfere with, regulate, or otherwise restrict the interstate traffic of milk, or a milk product, that is unpasteurized and packaged for direct human consumption based on the determination that solely because the milk or milk product is unpasteurized, it is adulterated, misbranded, or otherwise in violation of federal law.
Status: H.R. 1830 was introduced on 5/11/11 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. S.1955 was introduced on 12/7/11 and referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

Pharmaceutical Issues

H.R. 965/ S. 1211, Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act
Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to purportedly preserve the effectiveness of medically important antibiotics used in the treatment of human and animal diseases.
AVMA Position: Active Pursuit of Defeat
Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan
H.R. 1406, Fairness to Pet Owners Act
Imposes new stipulations on veterinary prescriptions. The bill requires a veterinarian to 1) write a prescription whether or not he/she will dispense the product; 2) provide a written disclosure notifying clients that they may fill prescriptions at the veterinary clinic or at an off-site pharmacy; and 3) verify a prescription electronically or by other means consistent with applicable State law.
Status: H.R. 1406 was introduced on 4/6/11 and referred to Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health.
AVMA Position: Active Pursuit of Defeat
Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

H.R. 2182/ S. 1734, Generating Antibiotic Incentives Now Act
Provides incentives for the development of qualified infectious disease products.
Status: H.R. 2182 was introduced on 6/15/11 and referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. S. 1734 was introduced on 10/19/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

H.R. 1925/ S. 507, Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
Provides for increased Federal oversight of prescription opioid treatment and assistance to States in reducing opioid abuse, diversion, and deaths. Veterinarians seeking licensure by DEA would be impacted specifically by the “Section 4 Practitioner Education” provision. To be registered to prescribe or otherwise dispense methadone or other opioids, a practitioner would have to comply with the 16-hour training requirement at least once during each 3-year period.
Status: H.R. 1925 was introduced on 5/13/11 and referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health and House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security. S. 507 was introduced on 3/8/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

H.Res. 98
Expresses the Sense of the House of Representatives that the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration should give the greatest weight in making critical policy decisions to readily available hard science data, including evidence from the natural sciences, physical sciences, and computing sciences.
Status: H.Res. 98 was introduced on 2/17/11 and referred to Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health.
AVMA Position: No Action
Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

Public Health Issues

H.R. 2405/ S. 1855, Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2011
The legislation amends the Public Health Service Act to revise and reauthorize appropriations for public health preparedness activities, including activities related to (1) tracking the initial distribution of federally purchased influenza vaccine in an influenza pandemic, (2) state and local public health and medical preparedness and response, (3) improving hospital surge capacity, (4) expanding the capabilities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to respond effectively to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies, and (5) the operations of the National Disaster Medical System.
Status: H.R. 2405 was introduced on 6/28/11 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Homeland Security Committee. S. 1855 was introduced on 11/10/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. H.R. 2405 passed 12/6/11 and was referred to the Senate. S. 1855 passed 3/7/12 and was referred to the House.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

H.R. 2557, To Provide for the Establishment of the Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee
The legislation would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish the Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee to advise the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for Health regarding the manner in which they can: (1) ensure interagency coordination and communication and minimize overlap regarding efforts to address tick-borne diseases; (2) identify opportunities to coordinate efforts with other federal agencies and private organizations addressing such diseases; (3) ensure interagency coordination and communication with constituency groups; (4) ensure that a broad spectrum of scientific viewpoints is represented in public health policy decisions and that information disseminated to the public and physicians is balanced; and (5) advise relevant federal agencies on priorities related to Lyme and tick-borne diseases.
Status: H.R. 2557 was introduced on 7/15/11 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

S. 1381, Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Prevention, Education, and Research Act of 2011
The legislation would provide for the expansion of federal efforts concerning the prevention, education, treatment, and research activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, including the establishment of a Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee.
Status: S. 1381 was introduced on 7/18/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

S. 1673, Safeguarding American Agriculture Act of 2012
The legislation amends Title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize activities related to (1) identifying career paths for agriculture specialists, (2) providing opportunities to acquire education, training, experience, and assignments, (3) developing a plan to more effectively recruit and retain qualified customs and border protection agriculture specialists, (4) providing equipment support, and (5) establishing an interagency rotation program with USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.
Status: S. 1673 was introduced on 10/6/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. On 11/26/12, the legislation was reported to the Senate with an amendment in the nature of a substitute by the Committee and placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Dr. Ashley Morgan

Research Issues

H.R. 403/H.R. 1417, Battlefield Excellence through Superior Training (BEST) Practices Act
Amends Title 10 USC to require the Secretary of Defense to use only human-based methods for training members of the Armed Forces. H.R. 403 would apply to training for the treatment of severe combat and chemical and biological injuries. H.R. 1417 would apply only to training for the treatment of severe combat injuries.
Status: H.R. 403 introduced 1/24/11, referred to Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel. H.R. 1417 introduced 4/7/11, referred to Committee on Armed Services.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

S. 2274 Foundation for Food and Agriculture
Directs the Secretary of Agriculture (USDA) to establish the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) to: advance USDA's research mission by supporting agricultural research focused on addressing key problems of national and international significance; and foster collaboration with agricultural researchers from the federal government, institutions of higher education, industry, and nonprofit organizations. The bill directs the Foundation to: award grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with, scientists and entities to advance Foundation goals; identify and coordinate existing and proposed federal research and development programs relating to Foundation purposes; identify unmet and emerging agricultural research needs; facilitate technology transfer and information release to the agricultural research community; and promote the development of the next generation of agricultural research scientists.
Status: S. 2274 was introduced on 3/29/2012 by Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS) and referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee. S. 2274 has been incorporated into the Senate’s 2012 Farm Bill, the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act (S. 3240) which passed in that chamber by a vote of 64-35 on June 21, 2012. S. 2274 was incorporated as a provision in S. 3240, Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Gina Luke

H.R. 2359, Safe Cosmetics Act of 2011
This bill would amend title VI of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safe use of cosmetics. Relevant sections would require non-animal alternative testing methods to be used where practicable and “equivalent or superior in scientific quality to the animal testing method.” Additionally, this legislation would require the FDA to publish a listing of alternative testing methods one year after the passage of the Act and to update the list every three years.
Status: H.R. 2359 was introduced 6/24/11 and referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

H.R. 2959/S. 1561, The Charitable Agriculture Research Act
Amends the Internal Revenue Code to: (1) allow a tax deduction for a charitable contribution to an agricultural research organization directly engaged in the continuous active conduct of agricultural research, and (2) make prohibitions against expenditures to influence legislation applicable to such organizations.
Status: H.R. 2959 introduced 9/15/11 and referred to the House Ways and Means Committee. S. 1561 introduced 9/15/11 and referred to the Senate Finance Committee.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Gina Luke

S. 847, Safe Chemicals Act
This bill would amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to ensure that risks from chemicals are adequately understood and managed. Relevant sections instruct the Administrator of the EPA to take action to minimize the use of animals in testing chemical substances or mixtures. Encourages funding research and validation studies to reduce, refine, and replace the use of animal tests. Establishes an ‘Interagency Science Advisory Board on Alternative Testing Methods’ to be composed of members from identified government entities and non-governmental organizations. The purpose of the advisory board will be to provide independent advice and peer review to Congress and the EPA on minimizing the use of animals in testing chemical substance or mixtures. Directs the EPA to develop a strategic plan to promote the development and implementation of alternative test methods and testing strategies to reduce the use of animals. Gives Administrator power to adapt or waive certain animal testing requirements.
Status: S. 847 was introduced 4/14/11 and referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Legislative hearing held 11/17/11. Ordered to be reported favorably by committee with amendment 7/25/12.
AVMA Position: Nonsupport
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

Small Business Agenda

Sales Tax Fairness
H.R. 2701/S. 1452, Main Street Fairness Act was introduced 7/25/11 and referred on 8/25/11 to the House Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law. S. 1452 introduced on 7/29/11 and referred to the Senate Finance Committee.
S. 1832, Marketplace Fairness Act was introduced 11/9/11, referred to the Senate Finance Committee.
H.R. 3179, Marketplace Equity Act was introduced 10/24/11, referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law.
Status: Congress adjourned without passing legislation to rectify the unfair price advantage that online retailers have over bricks-and-mortar businesses. AVMA supported legislation to give states the authority to manage their sales tax laws while closing the loophole which prohibits states from requiring remote sellers to collect sales and use taxes owed on purchases from out-of-state vendors. The loophole created an uneven playing field for bricks-and-mortar retail businesses that face a price disadvantage and it led to budget shortfalls for states as sales taxes go uncollected.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Gina Luke

H.R. 4032 Help Entrepreneurs Create American Jobs Act / S. 2088 Small Business Start-up Support Act
H.R. 4032/S. 2088 would amend the Internal Revenue Code to make the increase (from $5,000 to $10,000) in the tax deduction for the start-up expenditures of an active trade or business permanent (currently, limited to taxable years beginning in 2010).
Status: H.R. 4032 was introduced on 2/15/2012 by Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA-4th) and referred to the House Ways & Means Commerce Subcommittee on Health. S. 2088 was introduced on 2/9/2012 by Senator John Rockefeller (D-WV) and referred to Senate Committee on Finance.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Gina Luke

Reform or Repeal Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT)
Among the many provisions contained in H.R. 8, the AmericanTax Relief Act of 2012, was a permanent fix for AMT which attempts to ensure that anyone who benefits from certain tax advantages pays at least a minimum amount of tax. AMT provides an alternative set of rules for calculating a tax payor’s income tax.
Status: H.R. 8, the AmericanTax Relief Act of 2012 was signed by President Obama on January 2, 2013.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Gina Luke
H.R. 682, Dependent Care FSA
Amends IRC to increase the contribution limits to dependent care flexible spending accounts and to provide for a carryover of unused dependent care benefits. The legislation would allow a maximum annual benefit of $3,750 ($7,500 for married couples filing a joint tax return) for a dependent care flexible spending arrangement; and allow a carryover of unused dependent care benefits in tax-exempt cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements into the next plan year. Currently employers determine the limits on FSA contributions, although a provision in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) will cap annual FSA contributions at $2,500 beginning in 2013, with adjustments for inflation thereafter. An FSA impacts taxable income -- if an employee earns $50,000/year and contributes $4,000 to an FSA for health-care expenses, they reduce their taxable income to $46,000. At a 25% marginal tax rate, that will save $1,000 in income taxes. As of 2010, about 33 million U.S. workers, or 20%, used FSAs.

Status: Introduced 2/11/11, referred to Committee on Ways and Means.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Gina Luke

H.R. 1004, Medical FSA Improvement Act
Removes the “use it or lose it” provision requiring flexible spending account (FSA) participants to spend their entire contribution before their plan’s deadline or forfeit the remaining funds to their employer; replaces the requirement to forfeit unused funds with the ability to cash-out remaining funds and pay any applicable taxes on the amount withdrawn; eliminates the requirement that FSA participants obtain a doctor’s prescription in order to use their accounts to pay for OTC medications, such as allergy medicine and cough syrup. This rule is a burden for consumers and physicians, since additional office visits are required to get an OTC medication prescription.

Status: Introduced 3/10/11, referred to Committee on Ways and Means.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Gina Luke

H.R. 1137, Small Business Credit Card Act
Amends the Truth in Lending Act to provide coverage for credit cards issued to small businesses. It extends the protections previously codified by the U.S. Congress to the credit cards used by America’s small-business owners.

Status: Introduced 3/16/11, referred to Committee on Financial Services.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Gina Luke

H.R. 1180, Small Business Startup Savings Accounts Act
Amends the IRC to establish small business start-up savings accounts; businesses with 500 or fewer employees will be eligible to open a savings account; contributions to the account would be capped at $10,000 per year and the total value of these accounts at any one time would be capped at $150,000. As long as the money is used within five years of the first distribution, account holders do not have to worry about fees or penalties. Account holders could use the funds for the costs of business creation or expansion, such as the purchase of equipment or facilities, marketing, training, incorporation or accounting costs.

Status: Introduced 3/17/11, referred to Committee on Ways and Means.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Gina Luke

S. 364, Small Business Savings Account
Amends the IRC to provide for tax preferred Small Business Savings Accounts to pay for trade or business expenses, including operating capital, the purchase of equipment or facilities, marketing, training, incorporation, and accounting fees. Allows annual contributions to such accounts up to $10,000. Sets forth rules for the tax treatment of contributions to and rollovers from such accounts, similar to rules governing IRAs.

Status: Introduced 2/16/11, referred to Committee on Finance.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Gina Luke

S. 493/H.R. 1425, SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act
Amends the Small Business Act to reauthorize the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs of the Small Business Administration (SBA) among other things.

Status: S. 493 introduced 3/4/11, referred to Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. 3/9/11 reported with amendments and without written report. 5/4/11 passed by a vote of 52-44. H.R. 1425 introduced 4/7/11, sequentially referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business and Armed
Services. Reported 5/26/11 as amended by the Committee on Science, Space and Technology H. Rept. 112-90, Part 1. 7/1/11 reported as amended by Small Business H. Rept. 112-90, Part 2. 7/1/11 placed on the union calendar.

AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Gina Luke

H.R. 1628, Plastic Bag Tax
Amends IRC to require retailers to pay a $0.05 excise tax on each disposable carryout bag provided to a consumer (exempts reusable bags). Allows a refund of such tax for retailers who establish a disposable carryout bag recycling program. Establishes a Disposable Carryout Bag Trust Fund to support land and water conservation.
Status: Introduced 4/15/11, referred to Committee on Ways and Means; and Committee on Natural Resources.
AVMA Position: No Action
Primary Contact: Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

Veterinary Workforce Issues

S. 1053, Veterinary Services Investment Act
Establishes a matching grant program to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services. Requires a qualifying entity to carry out programs that 1) would bolster the availability of veterinary services in geographic areas designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA), 2) support private veterinary practices engaged in public health activities, or 3) support practices of veterinarians who are participating in or have successfully completed a specified service requirement (i.e., VMLRP or other state veterinary medicine loan repayment program). Makes such grants available for: 1) assistance for establishing/expanding veterinary practices or establishing mobile veterinary facilities; 2) veterinarian, technician, and student recruitment; 3) attending training programs in food safety/food animal medicine; 4) establishing/expanding accredited education, internship, residency, and fellowship programs; 5) assessing veterinarian deficit situations; and 6) continuing education and extension, including veterinary telemedicine and other distance-based education.
Status: Introduced 5/24/11, referred to Committee on Agriculture. S. 1053 was incorporated as a provision in S. 3240, Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act. The House Agriculture Committee has attached similar language to H.R. 6083 Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2012.
AVMA Position: Active Pursuit of Passage
Primary Contact: Gina Luke

H.R. 3886, Wildlife and Zoological Veterinary Medicine Enhancement Act
This bill aims to expand the workforce of veterinarians specialized in the care and conservation of wild animals, develops educations programs focused on wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine; created new funded positions for wildlife and zoo clinical and research veterinarians; creates a loan repayment program to help limit the amount of educational debt of veterinary medical students that go into wildlife or zoological medicine; provides incentives to study and practice wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine; helps schools and colleges of veterinary medicine develop pilot curricula to train students in health management of wildlife in their natural environment and in captivity; expands the number of educational and training programs in wildlife and zoological medicine for veterinary students.
Status: H.R. 3886 was introduced 2/2/12 and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry, and in addition to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs.
AVMA Position: Support
Primary Contact: Dr. Whitney Miller

Veterinary Corps Officer Accession from Lieutenant to Captain
Currently, all active duty veterinarians entering the Army Veterinary Corps are commissioned into the corps at the rank of Captain. Army Reserve Veterinary Corps officers, however, are commissioned at the rank of First Lieutenant unless they get credit for years in veterinary medicine after graduation (approx. 5-7yrs; requirement may vary). Physicians commissioned as Army Medical Corps officers enter active duty or the reserves at a rank of Captain. First Lieutenants are expected to perform the same duties and responsibilities as Captains in the United States Army Reserve Veterinary Corps; however, they do not have the same authority to carry out these tasks. Additionally, military pay is related to rank, which is consistent with the AVMA GRD’s current federal equity in pay initiative.
AVMA Position: Active Pursuit of Passage
Primary Contact: Dr. Mark Lutschaunig

Equity in Federal Veterinary Pay Equity
There is an increasing need for highly trained veterinarians in federal employment. Veterinarians in Federal service are on the front lines of the nation’s homeland security efforts. At the present time, Federal agencies lack sufficient incentives to recruit and retain the best and brightest veterinarians. The government needs to keep and attract new veterinarians. To do so, it must
improve compensation packages for federally employed veterinarians. More than 25% of Federal veterinarians will qualify for retirement in the next five years. The Office of Personnel Management level the playing field for federal agencies employing veterinarians by establishing specialty pay rates on par with other medical personnel, providing professional development opportunities including leadership training and continuing education, and board certification.

**Status:** GRD staff is working closely with the National Association of Federal Veterinarians (NAFV) in seeking administrative and legislative solutions to rectify inequities.

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

### Veterinary School/Educational Issues

**S. 518, Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act**
Amends IRC to make loan repayment awards disbursed under section 1415A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 USC 3151a) exempt from gross income and employment taxes.  
**Status:** Introduced 3/9/11, referred to Committee on Finance.  
**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Passage  
**Primary Contact:** Gina Luke

**H.R. 525, Veterinary Public Health Amendments Act**
Adds veterinary public health as an eligible grantee for public health workforce grants (authorized by Section 5206 of PL 111-148), and makes veterinarians studying public health eligible for Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program to assure an adequate supply of public health professionals in federal, state, local, and tribal public health agencies.  
**Status:** Introduced 2/9/11, referred to Committee on Energy & Commerce. 3/2/11, passed by E&C. 3/8/11, passed by the House of Representatives (280-138). 3/9/11, H.R. 525 was received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.  
**AVMA Position:** Active Pursuit of Passage  
**Primary Contact:** Dr. Ashley Morgan

**H.R. 4170 Student Loan Forgiveness Act of 2012**  
The bill would cap the interest rates on federal student, including interest rate on Direct Consolidation Loans, at 3.4%. It would reduce the Public Service Loan Forgiveness requirement to 5 years from its current 10 years. It creates a new “10-10 standard” for student loan forgiveness. It allows certain borrowers to consolidate their private education loans as Direct Consolidation Loans, provided the private loans were made on or before the date of this Act's enactment.  
**Status:** H.R. 4170 was introduced on 3/8/2012 by Rep. Clarke Hansen (D-MI-13) and referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, as well as the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Armed Services.  
**AVMA Position:** Support  
**Primary Contact:** Gina Luke

**H.R. 2028, Private Student Loan Bankruptcy Fairness Act of 2011**  
Amends the federal bankruptcy code to remove qualified educational loans as an exception to discharge from bankruptcy.  
**Status:** H.R. 2028 was introduced 5/26/11 and referred to House Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial and Administrative Law on 7/11/2011.  
**AVMA Position:** No Action  
**Primary Contact:** Gina Luke

**S. 1102, Fairness for Struggling Students Act of 2011**  
Revises federal bankruptcy law with respect to the exemption from the exception to discharge in bankruptcy for certain educational loans if excepting such debt from discharge would impose an undue hardship on the debtor and debtor's dependents; limits such exemption to the existing ones for: (1) an educational benefit overpayment or loan made, insured, or guaranteed by a governmental unit or made under any program funded in whole or in part by a governmental unit; and (2) an obligation to repay funds received from a governmental unit as an educational benefit, scholarship, or stipend; repeals the current exemption for: (1) any loan made under any program funded in whole or in part by a governmental unit or nonprofit institution; and (2) any other qualified education loan incurred by an individual debtor on behalf of the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse, or any dependent, including indebtedness used to refinance a qualified education loan. (Thus makes both kinds of loans nondischargeable in bankruptcy.)  
**Status:** S. 1102 was introduced on 5/26/11 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.  
**AVMA Position:** No Action  
**Primary Contact:** Gina Luke
AVMA Legislative Scoring System

**Active Pursuit of Passage:** The bill or regulatory action will be placed on the AVMA legislative agenda for the current session of Congress and that a high priority application of AVMA human resources will be expended to pass the bill or adopt the regulation.

**Active Pursuit of Defeat:** The bill or regulation will be placed on the AVMA legislative agenda for the current session of Congress and that a high priority application of AVMA human resources will be expended to stop the bill from becoming law or the regulation becoming adopted.

**Support:** The AVMA supports the bill or regulation; however, it is not a high priority and is not listed on the AVMA legislative agenda for the current session of Congress. A low priority application of AVMA human resources should be expended on the bill or regulation. However, if asked, the AVMA is on record for supporting the bill or regulation.

**Non-Support:** The AVMA does not support the bill or regulation as written, it is not a high priority, and it is not listed on the AVMA legislative agenda for the current session of Congress. A low priority application of AVMA human resources should be expended on the bill or regulation. However, if asked, the AVMA is on record of not supporting the bill or regulation. If applicable and appropriate, the AVMA may identify areas of the bill or regulation that would need to be changed for support of the bill or regulation to be a consideration.

**No Action:** This means that the AVMA makes no recommendation on the bill or regulation and the AVMA does not have a position on the bill or regulation. The Governmental Relations Division Staff will continue to monitor the legislation and advise the LAC should the legislation's status change.

**AVMA-GRD Contact Information**

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