

Statement of Support for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act

The undersigned organizations urge Congress to pass the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Enhancement Act. This legislation will help address the challenges rural areas face in accessing veterinary services for livestock medicine and public health and maximizes funding appropriated for VMLRP so that it can be stretched further to fill shortage areas across the country.

By exempting the loan repayment awards from a 39 percent withholding tax, Congress will make it possible for one additional veterinarian to be selected to participate for every three currently working in federally designated areas. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has made 291 awards to veterinarians practicing in nearly every state across the country since 2010. If the VMLRP program awards were exempt from withholding taxes, then roughly 100 additional veterinarians could have served rural communities during that same time period.

It is time for every American community to gain access to needed veterinary services. Congress can ensure that our nation's livestock are healthy, our food supply is safe and secure, and public health is protected by passing the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act this session.

Sincerely,

American Veterinary Medical Association
Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges
Academy of Rural Veterinarians
Alabama Veterinary Medical Association
Alaska Veterinary Medical Association
American Animal Hospital Association
American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition
American Association for Laboratory Animal Science
American Association of Avian Pathologists
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Association of Corporate and Public Practice Veterinarians
American Association of Equine Practitioners
American Association of Feline Practitioners
American Association of Food Safety Veterinarians
American Association of Industry Veterinarians
American Association of Mycobacterial Diseases
American Association of Public Health Veterinarians
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners
American Association of Swine Veterinarians
American Association of Veterinary Clinicians
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
American Association of Zoo Veterinarians
American Board of Veterinary Practitioners
American Board of Veterinary Toxicology
American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine
American College of Poultry Veterinarians
American College of Theriogenologists
American College of Veterinary Dermatology
American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine
American College of Veterinary Pathologists
American College of Veterinary Radiology

American Dairy Goat Association
American Dairy Science Association
American Farm Bureau Federation®
American Feed Industry Association
American Goat Federation
American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association
American Horse Council
American Rabbit Breeders Association
American Sheep Industry Association
American Society of Animal Science
American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners
American Veal Association
American Veterinary Medical Foundation
Animal Agriculture Alliance
Animal Health Institute
Animal Policy Group
Arizona Veterinary Medical Association
Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association
Association for Women Veterinarians Foundation
Association of Avian Veterinarians
Association of Veterinary Biologics Companies
Association of Zoos & Aquariums
Bayer Animal Health
Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Veterinary Medical Association
Center for Rural Affairs
Colorado Veterinary Medical Association
Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association
Delaware Veterinary Medical Association
District of Columbia Veterinary Medical Association
Elanco Animal Health (A Division of Eli Lilly & Company)
Federation of Animal Science Societies
Florida Veterinary Medical Association
Georgia Department of Agriculture
Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association
Human Animal Bond Research Initiative (HABRI) Foundation
Idaho Cattle Association
Idaho Veterinary Medical Association
Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association
Indiana Veterinary Medical Association
Iowa Veterinary Medical Association
Kansas Bioscience Authority
Kansas City Animal Health Corridor
Kansas City Area Development Council
Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute
Kansas Veterinary Medical Association
Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association
Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association

Livestock Marketing Association
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry
Maine Veterinary Medical Association
Maryland Veterinary Medical Association
Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
Merck Animal Health
Michigan Veterinary Medical Association
Minnesota Board of Animal Health
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association
Missouri Veterinary Medical Association
Montana Veterinary Medical Association
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals Multistate Initiative
National Association of Federal Veterinarians
National Association of State Animal Health Officials
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians
National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America
National Chicken Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Food Animal Veterinary Institute
National Grange
National Institute for Animal Agriculture
National Livestock Producers Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Renderers Association
National Turkey Federation
Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association
Nevada Veterinary Medical Association
New England Veterinary Medical Association
New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association
New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association
New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association
New York State Veterinary Medical Society
Northeast States Association for Agriculture Stewardship
North American Meat Institute
North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association
North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association
Ohio Veterinary Medical Association
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, Animal Industry Division
Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association
Oregon Veterinary Medical Association
Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association
Pet Food Institute
Poultry Science Association
Puerto Rico Veterinary Medical Association (Colegio de Medicos Veterinarios de Puerto Rico)
R-CALF United Stockgrowers of America
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union
Rural & Agriculture Council of America
South Carolina Association of Veterinarians
South Dakota Animal Industry Board
South Dakota Cattlemen's Association
South Dakota Pork Producers Council
South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association
Student American Veterinary Medical Association
Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association
Texas Animal Health Commission
Texas Veterinary Medical Association
United Egg Producers
Unites States Animal Health Association
US Cattlemen's Association
US Poultry & Egg Association
Utah Veterinary Medical Association
Vermont Veterinary Medical Association
Virginia Veterinary Medical Association
Washington State Veterinary Medical Association
West Virginia Veterinary Medical Association
Wisconsin State Veterinarian, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection
Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association
Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association
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