Statement of Support for the
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act of 2013

The undersigned organizations offer our strongest support for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act of 2013 championed by Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD), Senator Michael Crapo (R-ID), and Representative Kurt Schrader (D-OR-5).

Our organizations represent a broad spectrum of animal agriculture from all across our great country. We are concerned about the continued economic viability of America’s farmers, ranchers, and the businesses they own. We support public policy that promotes vibrant rural communities. We are livestock producers; processors; animal health and research organizations; veterinary medical associations; and livestock feed, pet food and animal drug companies. We represent businesses that care deeply about animal health and animal agriculture. Together we urge Congress to pass the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act without delay.

The legislation provides a federal income tax exemption for awards received under the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) and similar state programs. The awards are presently taxed at 39 percent.

Veterinary medicine loan repayment awards help qualified veterinarians offset a portion of the educational debt in return for practicing food animal medicine or veterinary public health in federally designated high-priority veterinary shortage situations. Congress set a precedent for tax exemption in 2004 when it passed “The American Jobs Creation Act of 2004” (H.R. 4520, P.L. 108-357) making the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) loan repayment program awards tax exempt. Prior to P.L. 108-357 the NHSC awards were taxed at 39 percent.

VMLRP participants provide a wide array of veterinary services for rancher’s livestock (beef, dairy cows, turkeys, chicken, swine, goats, sheep, farmed deer and elk, camels, and working farm horses) including accredited medical procedures including vaccinations (i.e., Brucellosis official calf-hood vaccination/RB51), castration and dehorning, pregnancy detections, breeding soundness exams, and services for acute illness, trauma, dystocia or obstetrical difficulties. They provide required services for interstate movement of livestock, including commuter agreements, animal health testing requirements needed to ship livestock, tuberculosis checks and blood sample services for Brucellosis, Bluetongue, and Bovine Viral Diarrhea. They perform duties for state and federal disease control and eradication programs and play a role in a state’s veterinary emergency response teams. Veterinarians practicing in public health provide regulatory oversight for critical programs and activities protecting livestock and poultry populations from catastrophic diseases of animal and public health importance. They perform domestic and foreign animal disease surveillance activities, epidemiological investigations, institute mitigation measures for disease control and are active first responders in the event of an animal disease outbreak or incident that threatens animal

Like-minded organizations may join the statement of support by contacting Gina Luke at gluke@AVMA.org or 202-288-3204
or human health. Also, they perform outreach and education contributing to animal
disease awareness for producers, veterinary practitioners and the public.

By passing the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act,
Congress will bolster animal health and welfare, protect the nation’s food supply and
ensure that ranchers and farmers will have access to veterinary services they need for
their livestock.

Sincerely,

Livestock Producers, Processors, Packers and Related Organizations
American Horse Council
American Meat Institute
American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc.
American Sheep Industry Association
American Veal Association
Fur Commission USA
International Llama Registry
Michigan Pork Producers Association
National Aquaculture Association
National Cattlemen’s Beef Association
National Chicken Council
National Livestock Producers Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Renderers Association
National Turkey Federation
Nebraska Poultry Industries
North American Deer Farmers Association
North American Meat Association
North Dakota Stockmen's Association
Ohio Poultry Association
South Dakota Cattlemen's Association
South Dakota Pork Producers Council
South Dakota Stockgrowers Association
Texas Association of Dairymen
United Egg Producers
U.S. Cattlemen's Association

Animal Agriculture and Rural-focused Organizations
American Farm Bureau Federation®
Center for Rural Affairs
Kansas City Animal Health Corridor
Kansas City Area Development Council
Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute
Livestock Marketing Association
Statement of Support for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act

National Farmers Union  
National Grange  
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Dairy Herd Information Association  
National Institute for Animal Agriculture  
Northeast States Association for Agriculture Stewardship  
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union  
South Dakota Farmers Union  
State Agriculture and Rural Leaders  

Animal Health and Research-focused Organizations  
American Dairy Science Association  
American Society of Animal Science  
American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners  
Federation of Animal Science Societies  
Kansas Bioscience Authority  
Poultry Science Association  
Silliker, Inc.  
Society for Theriogenology  
United States Animal Health Association  

Livestock Feed, Pet Food, Animal Drug Companies  
American Feed Industry Association  
Animal Health Institute  
Bayer Animal Health  
Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc.  
Ceva Animal Health  
Elanco Animal Health (A Division of Eli Lilly & Company)  
Pet Food Institute  
Zoetis  

Veterinary Trade and Allied Organizations  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians  
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
Statement of Support for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act

American Association of Feline Practitioners
American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians
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 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 Pathologists
American College of Veterinary Radiology
American Veterinary Medical Foundation
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
California Veterinary Medical Association
Colorado Veterinary Medical Association
Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association
Delaware Veterinary Medical Association
District of Columbia Veterinary Medical Association
Florida Veterinary Medical Association
Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association
Idaho Veterinary Medical Association
Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association
Indiana Veterinary Medical Association
Iowa Veterinary Medical Association
Kansas Veterinary Medical Association
Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association
Lesbian and Gay Veterinary Medical Association
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
Maine Veterinary Medical Association
Maryland Veterinary Medical Association
Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
Michigan Veterinary Medical Association
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association
Missouri Veterinary Medical Association
Montana Veterinary Medical Association
Statement of Support for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act

National Association of Federal Veterinarians
National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians
National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America
National Food Animal Veterinary Institute
Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association
Nevada Veterinary Medical Association
New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association
New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association
New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association
New York State Veterinary Medical Society
North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association
North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association
Ohio Veterinary Medical Association
Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association
Oregon Veterinary Medical Association
Puerto Rico Veterinary Medical Association (Colegio de Medicos Veterinarios de Puerto Rico)
Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association
South Carolina Association of Veterinarians
South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association
Student American Veterinary Medical Association
Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association
Texas Veterinary Medical Association
Utah Veterinary Medical Association
Vermont Veterinary Medical Association
Virginia Veterinary Medical Association
Washington State Veterinary Medical Association
Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association
Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association