

»» Support VMLRPEA

Co-sponsor the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act S. 487 and H.R. 1268

The USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has determined 187 regions in the United States suffer from shortages of livestock and public health veterinarians. These shortages threaten animal health, public health and the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers. Passing the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act (S. 487/H.R. 1268) will eliminate the 39% tax penalty and help rural American communities recruit critically needed veterinarians.



- Congress set a precedent for tax exemption in 2004, when PL 108-357 (American Jobs Creation Act) made the National Health Corps' loan repayment awards tax free. Awards for VMLRP should have been included then, but were not.
- Taxation of the awards is essentially transferring 39 percent of each award back to the treasury.
- The USDA Secretary makes tax payments to the IRS on behalf of VMLRP participants that are then credited directly to each participant's IRS (federal tax) account. Veterinarians are required to include the award total as reported income in their annual taxes, which could put them into a higher tax bracket.
- By making awards tax exempt, Congress can increase the number of VMLRP awards by one third, providing more rural and underserved communities with access to essential veterinary services.
- Despite broad support, this critically needed legislation was NOT included in H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. We urge its inclusion in any future tax legislation

<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/veterinary-medicine-loan-repayment-program>