

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2009 RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15 APPROVED

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE AND
EDUCATION ACT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

There are critical shortages of veterinarians working in public health and rural practice disciplines such as bioterrorism and emergency preparedness, environmental health, food safety and security, food production systems, regulatory veterinary medicine, diagnostic laboratory medicine and biomedical research. There are only 28 veterinary medical colleges in the United States, and they do not have sufficient capacity to meet all of these needs.

All of these colleges are operating at maximum student capacity due to space limitations for teaching, diagnostics, and research. Laboratories, teaching hospitals, veterinary research facilities, and animal diagnostic areas are built specifically for use with animals ranging from laboratory animals, livestock species, and wildlife.

HR 2999, The Veterinary Public Health Workforce and Education Act addresses these critical needs by providing:

- A competitive grant program for academic veterinary institutions for
 - New construction and/or new equipment
 - Expansion of post-Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) training opportunities
 - New faculty salaries
 - Curriculum development
 - Scholarships
- Programs to support faculty recruitment and retention
- A rotating fellowship program run by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS)
- A Division of Veterinary Medicine and Public Health at the Health Resources and Services Administration

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) supports the Veterinary Public Health Workforce and Education Act and urges the United States Congress to pass this legislation.