

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION – 2006

### RESOLUTION NUMBER: 20 APPROVED

**SOURCE:** COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY AND  
VETERINARY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**SUBJECT MATTER:** THE VETERINARY WORKFORCE EXPANSION ACT

**DATE:** MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 12-18, 2006

### BACKGORUND INFORMATION:

Veterinary medicine is essential to public health and national security. There is a critical shortage of veterinarians in certain key public practice areas. The nation's veterinary medical colleges are at capacity and can enroll only 2,500 students per year. Although these colleges provide a national resource by training veterinarians, only 27 states provide direct support to the colleges. Federal support is needed to increase capacity in veterinary medical education.

A Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act would authorize a competitive grants program for veterinary medical colleges and other eligible entities to increase capacity in veterinary medical education. At least an additional 400 DVM/VMD students are needed per year and 7,600 new postgraduate positions are needed to meet the current United States population societal needs.

### RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the 110<sup>th</sup> United States Congress enact a Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act and appropriate the full amount of authorized funds to build capacity in veterinary medical education.