



UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

115th Annual Meeting
September 29- October 5, 2011
Buffalo, New York

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 8 APPROVED

SOURCE: USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON DIAGNOSTIC
LABORATORY AND VETERINARY WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT MATTER: VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE AND
EDUCATION ACT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Veterinarians interested in pursuing a career in public health face additional financial burdens due to additional education requirements. Eighty nine percent of today's veterinary students have debt upon graduation of which 90.4% was incurred while in veterinary school. According to the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the mean educational debt for today's veterinary medical graduate is approximately \$142,000, with approximately 37% of students graduating in 2010 reporting debt exceeding \$150,000.

The Veterinary Public Health Workforce Enhancement Act (PHSA) will increase the number of veterinarians working in public health in two ways. It establishes that "veterinary public health" professionals are intended to be included among the health professionals for purposes of two PHSA authorities: section 765, which provides for grants for expanding America's public health workforce, and section 766, which establishes a loan repayment program for public health professionals.

RESOLUTION:

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