

## UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION - 2005

**RESOLUTION:** 9 APPROVED

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

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

**DATES:** Hershey, Pennsylvania – November 3-9, 2005

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Veterinary medicine is essential to public health and national security. There are critical shortages of veterinarians in certain key public health 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.

The Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act (VWEA, S. 914, H.R. 2206) was introduced in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress. VWEA authorizes a competitive grants program for veterinary medical colleges and other eligible entities to increase capacity in veterinary medical education. VWEA would provide \$1.5 billion to expand enrollment in the professional DVM/VMD programs by 400 students per year (a 16-percent increase) and it would open approximately 700 new postgraduate positions.

This initiative is separate from, but integrates with and supports, the request to seek full funding for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) by providing training opportunities for veterinarians in public health practice.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) requests that the United States Congress enact the Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act (VWEA, S. 914 and H.R. 2206) and appropriate the full amount of authorized funds to build capacity in veterinary medical education.