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.

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