

Submitter: Emily Dent

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2167

As a former employee in the equine industry and a lifetime supporter of equestrian sports and agriculture, I recognize that veterinarians are absolutely integral to both of these industries. On a personal level, the veterinary team at OSU provided life-saving care to my horse's herd mate and closest companion. I am so grateful for the expertise that this talented team of vets that cared for this beloved equine. I am not sure I would be comfortable living in Oregon as a horse-owner without having a veterinary school in the area.

I also grew up participating in 4H and was highly influenced by the agricultural industry growing up in a rural, farming town. I know that human health is closely linked to the health of the animals we eat and state university vet programs ensure that farmers can prevent and treat disease in livestock. The Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Lab keeps our livestock and our people safe from infectious diseases. Agriculture accounts for 13% of Oregon's GDP. We should not be risking our fiscal or physical health by underfunding veterinary programs.

I support OSU's request for \$10 million for the Lois Bates Acheson Veterinary Teaching Hospital and \$3.5 million for the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Lab to support protecting public and animal health through disease surveillance, diagnosis, and the training of future veterinarians. The funds will address the severe shortage of veterinarians in rural Oregon, support ongoing veterinary education, and enhance our capacity to combat significant health threats to animals and humans.