

Submitter: Lilian Wong

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2167

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of additional funding for the Oregon State University veterinary programs. I am a Clinical Skills Instructor at the Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine. During the past two years in this role, I have had the unique opportunity to spend one on one time with every single one of our current first, second, and third year veterinary students. Their passion and dedication to learning all aspects of the veterinary profession has been remarkable. Many of our students plan on returning home to their small towns across the state and have aspirations of giving back to their local communities and playing a role in public health. As veterinarians we uniquely understand the implications of animal health on the environment and people surrounding the animals we care for. Adequately preparing any medical professional is costly but the need for well trained veterinarians to maintain and support agricultural efforts is of vital importance for the state's economy. The current financial constraints of educating future Oregon veterinarians prohibits us as educators from providing top tier learning opportunities. I firmly believe that the state of Oregon needs to prioritize and support the advancement of veterinarians as this is a profession that impacts so many people across the state whether they are pet owners, farmers, or simply people living amongst the beauty of our state. Veterinary researchers and diagnostic laboratories play a crucial role in detecting novel diseases with zoonotic potential such as avian influenza. Earlier detection and better understanding of such diseases will help prevent detrimental impacts to our economy, wildlife, and Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lilian Wong, DVM, MS