



Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

3358 Davidsonville Road • Davidsonville, MD 21035 • (410) 922-3426

January 29, 2020

To: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.

Re: **Support of SB 189 - State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners - Practicing Veterinary Medicine Without a License - Cease and Desist Order and Civil Penalty**

On behalf of our member families, I submit this written testimony in support of SB 189, legislation that authorizes the State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (SBVME), on review and approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee, to issue a cease and desist order and impose a civil penalty against a person who practices, attempts to practice, or offers to practice veterinary medicine without a license. The civil penalty may be up to \$5,000 for each violation. In setting the amount of a civil penalty, SBVME must consider (1) the seriousness of the violation; (2) the harm caused by the violation; (3) the good faith of the violator; (4) any history of previous violations by the violator; and (5) any other relevant factors. Any penalties collected are paid into the State general fund.

To ensure that farmer's animals are being cared for in a safe and secure manner, the individuals practicing Vet medicine should be licensed. This bill gives the SBVME the power to make sure that is happening in Maryland. This bill does not prevent a farmer from caring for their own animals or assisting another farmer when caring for their animals. This bill just addresses those that are getting paid for their services as a Vet.

MARYLAND FARM BUREAU SUPPORTS SB 189 & ENCOURAGES A FAVORABLE REPORT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colby Ferguson'.

Colby Ferguson
Director of Government Relations

For more information contact Colby Ferguson at (240) 578-0396