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HB1133 – Agriculture – Veterinary Practitioners – Student Loan Forgiveness Program

FAVORABLE

Carrington & Associates, LLC, request a FAVORABLE report for HB1133. This bill establishes the Veterinary Practitioner Student Loan Forgiveness Program to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture; requiring Program participants to sign a contract to complete a service obligation to practice in the State for at least 2 years; requiring the Secretary to select participants based on experience, training, and availability to practice in certain high-need areas; requiring the Secretary to disburse directly to a participant \$20,000 or the amount of the participant's educational loans, whichever is less; etc.

According to industry experts, the United States is facing its worst veterinarian shortage. More and more vets are leaving the profession due to mental health, work-life balance, injuries and higher-paying jobs. According to a July 6, 2022 article in [The Atlantic](#), “Hospitals, clinics, and vet offices around the U.S. in the past year have been turning animals away because they are short staffed. This crisis has hit all levels of the system, from general practice to specialists, but animal emergency rooms—where the job is most stressful—have it the worst.”

We would like to thank Delegate Lehman for sponsoring the bill, and applauds the bi-partisan nature in which this bill is presented. Our firm’s Managing Director, Darrell Carrington, is a huge animal lover, and knows firsthand how dire a situation we have in trying to attract top notch talent to this admirable profession.

For the stated reasons, we ask for a FAVORABLE report on HB1133. Please feel free to contact Darrell Carrington, at darrell.carrington@verizon.net, if you would like any additional information.