

FAVORABLE REPORT – SB0745

On behalf of the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, we urge a favorable report of SB745. Enhancing the access Marylander's have to veterinary care is a critical issue for the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA).

The MDVMA in cooperation with the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM) is seeking to increase funding to add twelve (12) additional seats for Maryland students to attend veterinary school. Throughout the nation, the veterinary industry is suffering from a significant shortage of veterinarians. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is projecting a shortage of approximately 15,000 veterinarians by 2030. Here in Maryland, though we do not have exact figures, we do know that there are substantial shortages that are affecting rural, suburban, and urban areas. Almost every practice owner we associate with is in dire need of new doctors, but the supply is not there to fill vacant positions. As a result, there have been many issues in being able to provide timely veterinary care to both large and small animals in need of medical or surgical care throughout the state.

History of Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM)

What many Maryland residents, public and elected officials do not know is that Maryland has its own in-state veterinary school in partnership with Virginia. Founded in 1980, The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM) has campuses at the University of Maryland, College Park as well as Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, VA. In addition, there is a third location supporting equine services in Leesburg, VA. VMCVM is one of only 33 accredited veterinary schools in the United States.

The VMCVM was established through a partnership between the states of Virginia and Maryland for a regional veterinary school to benefit both states. Both states agreed to a funding model formula that subsidizes the cost of attending veterinary school to make it similar to in-state tuition. In the late 1980's, the number of seats for Maryland students was reduced due to funding that was frozen from the State of Maryland at the 1986 level for the school. As a result, Maryland was not paying its proportional share per student and was at risk of losing further opportunities for Maryland students to attend veterinary school. After a couple years of negotiations, in 1993, the Maryland legislature passed SB210 (the "Amoss Bill") which provided guaranteed Maryland financial support to be prorated using the same formula used by the State of Virginia.

The MDVMA is the primary stakeholder for the veterinary community in Maryland. Members of MDVMA have been working with the leadership at the VMCVM for the past 25 years to identify strategies to expand the opportunities for Maryland students to attend veterinary school.

Enrollment at VMCVM

Enrollment at VMCVM has remained relatively stagnant despite the massive population growth our region has experienced. In 1980, 24 seats for students from Maryland were funded for each year. This figure increased to

30 students from Maryland in 1982 and remains at that number today. Currently, each class attending veterinary school includes 50 students from Virginia, 30 students from Maryland, 6 students from West Virginia, and 40 at-large spots for students from outside of the three states.

Diversity at VMCVM

VMCVM stands in the top 25% of established veterinary schools regarding diversity of the student body and has a robust program in recruiting qualified minority candidates. 27.5% of VMCVM students are from underrepresented minorities. Black students represent 7% of the student body, more than in three-quarters of US veterinary colleges. 13% of students are first-generation college students or Pell Grant eligible. Please see the included report.

Current Workforce Challenges and the Need for More Veterinarians in General Practice

Opportunities for veterinary graduates have significantly increased in recent past. The recent growth of the profession in more diversified fields such as specialty practice, shelter medicine, and urgent care has reduced the number of graduates working general practice. In addition, veterinarians are in demand in both the private and public sector due to their training in public health matters and food biosecurity. Veterinarians are now able to secure positions within governmental agencies both at the state and federal level, the pharmaceutical industry, food sciences, agriculture, and other public health agencies such as, USDA, FDA, Human Health and One Health all of which contribute to the shortage of veterinarians in general practice. As a result, the supply of available veterinarians has not kept pace with the increase in opportunities.

Funding for Additional Seats at VMCVM does NOT Conflict with the Mission of UMES

We want to address explicitly in this testimony that this funding is in no way an attempt to detract from the development of a separate veterinary institution at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). UMES has made clear it is not attempting to be a state school for Maryland but rather to fulfill a national and international service of recruitment to enhance diversity within the veterinary profession. **This is a mission that we welcome and are in full support of.** Furthermore, UMES has made clear that it is not seeking Maryland state funding to fulfill its mission; therefore, this request to fund our in-state school, VMCVM, **is not in direct conflict of the goals of the UMES mission nor does it create redundant funding request from Maryland taxpayers.**

We offer sincere wishes for success of the program and have made it clear that we will work with them to grow their program and assist in any way we can; however, there remain questions about how this may affect the long-term accreditation of the institution which is directly related to the success of students matriculating through the system including passage rates of the North American Veterinary Medical Licensing Examination (NAVLE). As such, it is critical to support the in-state institution that already exists to provide accredited education to Maryland residents.

While Marylander's may benefit from the UMES program there is no inherent obligation for UMES to specifically enhance access to Maryland residents. VMCVM has an excellent track record for diversity and inclusion, and we believe it is in the best interest of our state to embrace the opportunity to guarantee greater access to in-state tuition rates for Maryland residents by increasing the available number of seats at our existing in-state school.

By allocating state funding to our present in-state institution, we can capture an opportunity to ensure a successful, long-standing tradition of affordable access to a veterinary education from an institution that is already fully accredited and has a proven track record and system that receives complete support from the AVMA Council on Education.

VMCVM Increases Access to Veterinary Care Within the State of Maryland

VMCVM has been an excellent steward of the funding it receives from the state of Maryland by delivering a fully accredited curriculum to Maryland resident students, specifically. Providing access to Maryland students at our in-state school enhances the likelihood that Marylanders will maintain access to veterinarians living and working within the state because the students have ties directly to the state. When students are forced to travel long distances to out of state institutions to obtain their veterinary degree it increases the likelihood that they will take residence in other states upon graduation. Some out of state schools even entice students with the offering of in-state tuition if the student formally changes their residency status.

Through the funding of 12 additional seats at VMCVM, we have an opportunity to strengthen this partnership and enhance access to a veterinary education for Maryland students and we feel strongly this is the most likely path toward increasing access to veterinary care within the state.

The Maryland Veterinary Medical Association, on behalf of its members, urges a favorable review of SB745.



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Office of the Dean and Director
Agricultural Experiment Station
University of Maryland Extension

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February 22, 2024

On behalf of the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources in College Park, MD and the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, I am writing this letter to voice our support for SB745/HB1494: Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine-Funding.

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM), in cooperation with the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA), is seeking to increase funding to add twelve (12) additional seats for Maryland students to attend veterinary school. Throughout the nation, the veterinary industry is suffering from a significant shortage of veterinarians. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is projecting a shortage of approximately 15,000 veterinarians by 2030. Here in Maryland, though we do not have exact figures, we do know that there are substantial shortages that are affecting rural, suburban, and urban areas. Almost every practice owner we associate with is in dire need of new doctors, but the supply is not there to fill vacant positions. As a result, there have been many issues in being able to provide timely veterinary care to both large and small animals in need of medical or surgical care throughout the state.

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The VMCVM was established through a partnership between the states of Virginia and Maryland for a regional veterinary school to benefit both states. Both states agreed to a funding model formula that subsidizes the cost of attending veterinary school to make it similar to in-state tuition. In the late 1980's, the number of seats for Maryland students was reduced due to funding that was frozen from the State of Maryland at the 1986 level for the school. As a result, Maryland was not paying its proportional share per student and was at risk of losing further opportunities for Maryland students to attend veterinary school. After a couple years of negotiations, in 1993, the Maryland legislature passed SB210 (the "Amoss Bill") which provided guaranteed Maryland financial support to be prorated using the same formula used by the State of Virginia.

Enrollment at VMCVM

Enrollment for Maryland students at VMCVM has remained stagnant despite the massive population growth our region has experienced. In 1980, 24 seats for students from Maryland were

funded for each year. This figure increased to 30 students from Maryland in 1982 and remains at that number today. Currently, each class attending veterinary school includes 50 students from Virginia, 30 students from Maryland, 6 students from West Virginia, and 40 at-large spots for students from outside of those states.

Diversity at VMCVM

VMCVM stands in the top 25% of established veterinary schools regarding diversity of the student body and has a robust program in recruiting qualified minority candidates. 27.5% of VMCVM students are from underrepresented minorities. Black students represent 7% of the student body, more than in three-quarters of US veterinary colleges. 13% of students attending VMCVM are first-generation college students or Pell Grant eligible.

Current Workforce Challenges and the Need for More Veterinarians in General Practice

Opportunities for veterinary graduates have significantly increased in recent past. The recent growth of the profession in more diversified fields such as specialty practice, shelter medicine, and urgent care has reduced the number of graduates working general practice. In addition, veterinarians are in demand in both the private and public sector due to their training in public health matters and food biosecurity. Veterinarians are now able to secure positions within governmental agencies both at the state and federal level, the pharmaceutical industry, food sciences, agriculture, and other public health agencies such as, USDA, FDA, Human Health and One Health--all of which contribute to the shortage of veterinarians in general practice. As a result, the supply of available veterinarians has not kept pace with the increase in opportunities available.

VMCVM Increases Access to Veterinary Care Within the State of Maryland

VMCVM has been an excellent steward of the funding it receives from the State of Maryland by delivering a fully accredited curriculum to Maryland resident students, specifically. Providing access to Maryland students at our in-state school enhances the likelihood that Marylanders will maintain access to veterinarians living and working within the state because those students have ties directly to our state. When students are forced to travel long distances to out-of-state institutions to obtain their veterinary degree, it increases the likelihood that they will take residence in other states upon graduation. Some out-of-state schools even entice students with the offering of in-state tuition if the student formally changes their residency status.

Affordability is one of the largest barriers to veterinary medicine for students pursuing a veterinary degree. By increasing our support for more Maryland students able to pay an in-state tuition, it substantially improves the debt load of a veterinary student. In turn, this allows our school to be more competitive nationally in keeping our highly qualified Maryland residents closer to home.

In conclusion, I encourage a favorable report on SB745/HB1494. Through the funding of 12 additional seats at the Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, we have the opportunity to immediately enhance access to an affordable veterinary education for Maryland residents. This measure alone will not resolve all our veterinary workforce challenges. We will continue to explore other opportunities to enhance and grow our veterinary degree programs to further benefit the State of Maryland. However, by taking advantage of our state's existing successful veterinary school, approval of this funding will provide the most fiscally responsible and immediate solution towards increasing access to veterinary care and professionals throughout the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Craig Beyrouty

Dean and Director



Office of the Dean

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February 27, 2024

Maryland legislators,

On behalf of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, I am writing this letter to voice support for SB745/HB1494: Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine-Funding.

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM), in cooperation with the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MDVMA), is seeking an increase in funding to add twelve (12) additional seats for Maryland students to attend veterinary school. Throughout the nation, the veterinary industry is suffering from a significant shortage of veterinarians. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is projecting a shortage of approximately 15,000 veterinarians by 2030. As a result, there have been many issues in the provision of timely and knowledgeable veterinary care to both large and small animals in need of medical or surgical care throughout the state of Maryland.

History of Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM)

What many Maryland residents, public and elected officials may not understand clearly is that Maryland has its own in-state veterinary school in partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia. Founded in 1980, The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM) has campuses at the University of Maryland, College Park as well as Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, VA. In addition, there is an additional clinical location supporting equine services in Leesburg, VA. At the current date, VMCVM is one of only 31 fully accredited veterinary schools graduating students within the United States.

The VMCVM was established through a partnership between the states of Virginia and Maryland for a regional veterinary school to benefit both states. Both states agreed to a funding model formula that subsidizes the tuition and fees paid by students attending veterinary school to make it similar to in-state tuition. In the 2023-24 academic year, this high-quality experiential education is accessed by Maryland students via resident tuition and mandatory fees that total \$28,156 annually. Our 2022-23 resident tuition ranked seventh from the lowest among the 31 US colleges of veterinary medicine graduating veterinarians. Tuition and mandatory fees for residents at these veterinary colleges averaged \$35,561. In a profession that is clearly impacted by a notably high debt-to-income ratio due to educational costs, I would hope that Maryland would increase access to veterinary medical education that has a proven record of success in training practice-ready and practice-qualified veterinarians at a cost that is well below the nation's average in-state tuition.





In the late 1980's, the number of seats for Maryland students was reduced due to funding that was frozen from the State of Maryland at the 1986 level for the school. As a result, Maryland was at risk of losing further opportunities for Maryland students to attend veterinary school. After a couple years of negotiations, in 1993, the Maryland legislature passed SB210 (the "Amoss Bill") which provided guaranteed Maryland financial support to be prorated using the same formula as the formula used by the State of Virginia.

Enrollment at VMCVM

Enrollment for Maryland students at VMCVM has remained stable for many years despite the massive population growth experienced by Maryland and the Region. In 1980, 24 seats for students in each veterinary class from Maryland were funded each year. That figure increased to 30 students in each veterinary class from Maryland in 1982 and remains at that number today. Currently, each class attending veterinary school includes 50 students from Virginia, 30 students from Maryland, 6 students from West Virginia, and 40 at-large spots for students from outside of those states.

Quality of Veterinary Education

With the support of a strong foundation by two states, the VMCVM's 2023 graduates successfully passed the North American Veterinary Licensing Exam (NAVLE) prior to graduation at a rate of 96% which was 10% above the national average. Graduates must pass this licensing exam to be able to practice veterinary medicine in any state in the United States. This demonstration of proficiency in foundational knowledge coupled with survey results from alumni and initial employers provides confidence in the quality of the veterinary medical education currently provided at VMCVM. Additional advancement in the quality of this education is being pursued through an ongoing curricular review that involves representatives from multiple departments focused on strengthening the curriculum delivered during the latter years.

Diversity at VMCVM

VMCVM stands in the top 25% of established veterinary schools regarding diversity of the student body and has a robust program in recruiting qualified minority candidates. 27.5% of VMCVM students are from underrepresented minorities. Black students represent 7% of the student body, more than in three-quarters of US veterinary colleges. 13% of students attending VMCVM are first-generation college students or Pell Grant eligible.

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graduation. I was pleased to see that a recent analysis of first destination sites for 2020 to 2022 Maryland residents graduating from VMCVM revealed that they were 41 times more likely to accept initial employment in Maryland as compared to other US graduates. As a point of interest, that relative likelihood was very slightly higher for Maryland than for Virginia residents at VMCVM accepting initial employment in Virginia (relative likelihood = 39X). Understanding the quality of the available veterinary medical education at VMCVM, the relative cost of this education for Maryland residents, and the likelihood that these graduates return to Maryland for initial employment, an investment in Maryland seats at the VMCVM appears to be a logical and rational choice to address needs for additional veterinary medical care in the state of Maryland.

In conclusion, I encourage a favorable report on SB745/HB1494. Through the funding of 12 additional seats at the Virginia Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, the State of Maryland has the opportunity to immediately enhance access to a proven, high-quality, affordable veterinary education for Maryland residents. This measure alone will not resolve all of the state's veterinary workforce challenges. Other options should be considered and explored to enhance and grow veterinary degree programs to further benefit the State of Maryland. However, by taking advantage of the state's existing and established successful veterinary school, approval of this funding will provide the most fiscally responsible and immediately impactful solution towards increasing access to clinical veterinary care and veterinary professionals throughout the State of Maryland.

Sincerely,

M. Daniel Givens

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Dean

EmpoweringMaryland's Veterinary Future

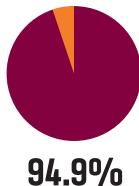
In Maryland, veterinarians are pivotal not only in treating a growing number of household pets but also in contributing to food security, infectious disease prevention, cancer research, and public health.



Educational Excellence and Impact

Annually, Maryland sends 30 new students to the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech, a collaboration between Maryland and Virginia established in 1979.

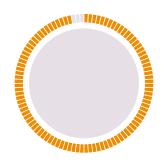
With its three teaching hospitals and proven curriculum, the college provides a high-caliber education, equipping students to excel in private clinics and contribute significantly to food security, infectious disease control, cancer research, and regional public health.



34.370GRADUATION RATE 2020-2023



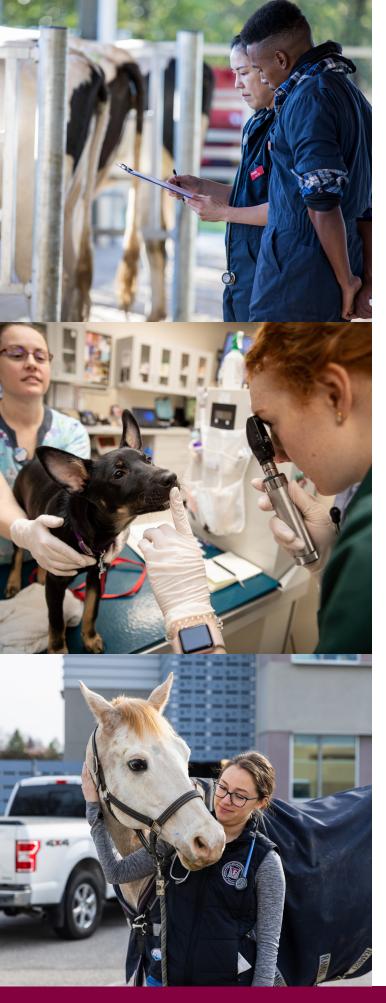
96% 2023 LICENSING EXAM PASS RATE



970/0 CLASS OF 2023 JOB PLACEMENT







Commitment to Diversity

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine recognizes that a diverse student body is a strategic advantage. Diversity enriches the educational experience, fosters innovation, and prepares students to meet the complex needs of a diverse clientele in their professional lives.

- 27.5% of VA-MD students are from underrepresented minorities.
- Black students represent 7% of the student body, more than in three-quarters of US veterinary colleges.
- 13% of students are firstgeneration college students or Pell Grant eligible.

Local and Global Influence

While Virginia-Maryland graduates serve nationwide and around the globe, many also return to practice in Maryland.

The college is a critical investment for Maryland. It underpins public health, agricultural stability, and economic productivity. Its focus on diversity and practical training creates a competent, empathetic veterinary workforce, making it an invaluable asset to the state.

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine is a proven, effective, and excellent investment for public dollars and Maryland's greatest resource, its people.



Initial Employment in State of Residence

Classes of 2020 to 2023

Initial Employment of VM CVM Grads in State of Residence

Numerator = VM grads employed in State
Denominator = Total # of Seats

West Virginia = 11/24 = 46% Virginia = 145/200 = 73% Maryland = 42/120 = 35%

VM CVM Grads of All New Grads Initially Employed in State

Numerator = VM grads employed in State Denominator = All grads employed in State

> West Virginia = 11/37 = 30% Virginia = 145/320 = 45% Maryland = 42/122 = 34%

Relative Likelihood (Risk) of Employment in VA and MD: VMCVM Versus Other Schools Initial Employment of Cumulative Classes 2020 to 2023

Virginia

Employed in VA: VMCVM

145 of 200 (73%) VMCVM grads chose VA

Employed in VA: Other Schools

175/ 9,948 (1.8%) Other Schools grads chose VA Relative Risk of Initial Employment in VA vMCvM grads **41** times more likely to choose vA than other school grads

Maryland



42 of 120 (35%) VMCVM grads chose MD

Employed in MD: Other Schools 80/ 10,032 (0.08%) Other Schools grads chose MD

Relative Risk of Initial Employment in MD ymcvm grads **44** times more likely to choose MD than other school grads

VMCVM Maryland Application Pool

PUUI							
Application Year	(2016 - 2017)	(2017 - 2018)	(2018 - 2019)	(2019 - 2020)	(2020 - 2021)	(2021 - 2022)	(2022- 2023)
Class	Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Number Applied	132	145	156	142	179	183	161
Gender					-		
Females	113	120	132	129	164	165	140
Males	19	24	24	13	15	16	19
Decline to State	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
Ethnicity							
White	100	103	114	108	113	118	94
Black	9	12	14	12	25	25	19
Asian	11	5	5	5	8	6	5
Hispanic	2	2	6	5	11	17	28
Multi-ethnic	6	18	17	12	19	16	11
Unknown	4	5	0	0	3	1	4
First Generation	18	34	35	46	44	50	
Received a Pell Grant	17	24	34	22	30	46	44
Number Interviewed	69	80	63	72	0	84	84
Gender							
Females	57	68	48	64	N/A	77	77
Males	12	12	15	8	N/A	7	6
Declined to State	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ethnicity							
White	55	60	49	59	N/A	66	54
Black	4	3	5	3	N/A	4	6
Asian	4		2	3	N/A	5	3
Hispanic	2	1	2	2	N/A	2	7
Multi-ethnic	4	12	5	5	N/A	6	12
Unknown	0	4	0	0	N/A	1	2
First Generation	8	17	11	24	N/A		
Received a Pell Grant	8	11	11	13	N/A		5

Received a Pell Grant	401	400	470	369	513	530	470
First Generation	263	440	506	412	537	532	
Unknown	61	66	28	12	26	19	21
Multi-ethnic	117	173	242	167	111	96	76
American Indian	6	1	2	3	3	2	2
Hispanic	76	55	70	47	188	240	223
Asian	94	99	83	63	79	104	81
Black	61	59	69	71	132	111	79
White	1190	1203	1338	1098	1338	1327	1210
,	Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Ethnicity	(2016 - 2017)	(2017 - 2018)	(2018 - 2019)	(2019 - 2020)	(2020 - 2021)	(2021 - 2022)	(2022- 2023)
Decline to State	6	6	3	2	6	12	11
Males	253	245	266	209	216	223	202
Females	1346	1405	1563	1250	1655	1664	1479
	Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Gender	(2016 - 2017)	(2017 - 2018)	(2018 - 2019)	(2019 - 2020)	(2020 - 2021)	(2021 - 2022)	(2022- 2023)
Total Apps	1605	1656	1832	1461	1877	1899	1692
West Virginia	38	38	45	45	60	65	43
Maryland	132	145	156	142	179	184	161
Virginia	209	245	293	311	368	415	362
At Large	1226	1228	1338	963	1270	1235	1126
	Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
VMCVM Overall Pool	2017)	2018)	2019)	2020)	2021)	2022)	2023)
	(2016 -	(2017 -	(2018 -	(2019 -	(2020 -	(2021 -	(2022-