

**PAUL D. CORDERMAN**  
*Legislative District 2*  
Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration



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**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

February 28, 2024

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
Chair Brian Feldman  
Vice Chair Cheryl Kagan  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB 900 – Higher Education – Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program - Eligibility**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the EEE Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 900 this afternoon. This bill simply adds a new category to the incredibly successful Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP). The LARP program is already capably administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, which has proven its ability to successfully add new categories of recipients in past years.

Adding Veterinarians to the list of qualified employment types can serve as an incentive for students considering this career path and will meet a very real need in this field. The reality is that the increase in pet ownership has placed a higher demand on the need for animal care, and animal rescues and shelters have not been able to keep up with this demand. Increasingly, desperate pet owners are looking to shelters and rescues to help with veterinary procedures, from vaccinations to spay/neuter to more complicated diagnostics and care. Shelters strive to provide these services but must prioritize vet services for the animals in their care. Without adequate staffing or volunteer practitioners, shelters cannot meet the needs from community. This leaves pets uncared for or surrendered to shelters in desperation. SB 900 will help to encourage more students to pursue this career path and will ultimately help our pets.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 900.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Corderman".

Paul D. Corderman  
District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties