



**Maryland's Association of Animal Care and Control
Agencies and Humane Societies**

**PO Box 1143
Easton, Maryland 21601**

SB900-Higher Education – Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program – Eligibility
Maryland Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

February 26, 2024

Dear Honorable Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the committee:

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland, the state organization comprised of animal control agencies and humane societies unanimously supports and encourages a favorable and speedy report on SB 900 Loan Assistance Repayment Program- Eligibility.

Animal shelters across Maryland, in your counties and communities, are in crisis. The public has expectations- as do we in the field- that we will save every animal possible, no matter their medical condition, however the lack of affordable and attainable veterinary care has become problematic for almost every shelter in the state. There are many variables involved in this crisis. Cost increases, fewer students entering the work force into the veterinary field and the increase in animals entering our care as shelters.

SB900 asks to include those entering veterinary medicine who attended a Maryland state college or university, being licensed in Maryland to receive help from the loan forgiveness program upon volunteering at a Maryland animal shelter. The benefits to this are multi-fold. The veterinarian receives aid, the shelters have the help we so desperately need at no cost and animals in our shelters which enter our homes and communities are healthier.

Professional Animal Workers of Maryland believes the passing of SB900 is a valuable tool in our work to serve the animals and people of Maryland.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, CAWA

Executive Director/Chief Animal Control Officer: Talbot Humane/ Talbot County Animal Control

President: Professional Animal Workers of Maryland