



February 26, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chairman
Education, Energy and Environment Committee
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB745 (Support)

Dear Chairman Feldman and members of the Committee:

The Maryland Horse Breeders Association (MHBA) supports SB745 to increase by twelve (12) the number of seats for Maryland students to attend Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM). The additional seats in this program will be a benefit to all of Maryland.

With nearly 95,000 horses in Maryland the economic impact of the Equine industry is \$2.9 billion. The horse industry has many diverse disciplines represented all of which are supported by veterinarians.

The need for additional large animal veterinarians is becoming more evident in the Equine and Bovine communities. Often new Equine practitioners leave the field to pursue the more lucrative, small animal, or specialty practice approach within five years of graduation.

Our industry is feeling the consequences of that shortage throughout Maryland, but this legislation will offer opportunities for all which will help with the need for veterinarians on all fronts.

On behalf of the MHBA we strongly urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB745.

Most sincerely,



Cricket Goodall
Executive Director