



March 14, 2022

Ms. Kelly Andrews
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
Executive Director
101 Bridgepoint Way, Suite 100
So. St. Paul, MN 55075

RE: Support for Minnesota SF 2935 / HF 2553 - Veterinary technicians, assistants, and practice of veterinary technology regulations

Dear Ms. Andrews:

On behalf of our nation's veterinarians, who are dedicated to working in our communities to promote animal health, animal welfare, and public health, we're joining the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association and the Minnesota Association of Veterinary Technicians in support of SF 2935 and HF 2553 that would provide for the licensure and regulation of veterinary technicians. We support licensure for veterinary technicians to recognize their professional abilities, as well as to enhance veterinary medicine by improving the quality of patient care and providing professional accountability and public protection.

Licensure is indispensable and fitting for fields where public health may be impacted. Veterinary professionals play a critical role in disease prevention; the identification, treatment, and control of zoonotic diseases; ensuring the safety of food and feed; dog bite injury prevention; animal control; and assuring the functional health of working animals, such as service dogs and those used in emergency response. Technicians are an essential part of the professional team that undertakes these tasks, in addition to many more.

In Minnesota, as elsewhere, veterinary technicians work closely with veterinarians to administer anesthetic protocols so that surgical procedures can be safely performed, obtain diagnostic images, process samples for clinical pathologic evaluation to assist in disease diagnosis, and administer and dispense medications as directed by the veterinarian. As such, veterinary technicians play a critical role in the effective and professional practice of veterinary medicine. Licensing these professionals will not only elevate standards of veterinary technology, but also recognize the integral part veterinary technicians already play in veterinary practices in Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to continuing to work with the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association and the Minnesota Association of Veterinary Technicians to promote animal health, animal welfare, and public health in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Janet D. Donlin, DVM, CAE
Executive Vice President and CEO

About the AVMA

The AVMA is the nation's leading representative of the veterinary profession, speaking for more than 99,500 member veterinarians across the United States who care passionately about protecting animal health, animal welfare and human health. Informed by its members' unique scientific training and knowledge, the AVMA advocates for policies that advance the practice of veterinary medicine and support the crucial work of veterinarians nationwide.