

Crossing the LVT Finish Line in 2024?

By Dr. Al Balay, MVMA Veterinary Technician Committee

This is the 20th article discussing the Licensed Veterinary Technician Initiative. We hope this will be close to the last - as we strive to cross the finish line in the 2024 Legislative session!

The focus of the next legislative session is geared towards getting a hearing in the House Health Finance and Policy Committee, which is Chaired by Representative Tina Liebling (District 24B - Rochester area). The MVMA and MAVT are trying to identify members who are constituents of not only Chair Liebling, but other Representatives that serve on this committee. It will be very helpful to have their constituents join us for any zoom or in person meetings. The lobbyists and the core LVT representatives (Dr. Balay, Kim Horne, Dr. Brownlee, Dr. Ames) will help lead the discussion of the bill and answer any specific questions. Your presence as a constituent will help us "get in the door" and increase the "weight" of our "ask" of their support of this bill.

Not sure which Representative is your Legislator and/or whether or not they serve on the Health Finance and Policy committee? There is a quick and easy way to find out! Go to: <https://www.leg.mn.gov/> and under the House of Representatives, find the "Who Represents Me?" and type in your address (you can try both your home and work addresses). Look for the person who represents you in the MN House, click "contact", and their page will pop up. There you will see what committees they serve on.

The more people in the veterinary community that reach out to their Representatives asking them to support this bill shows that we are all passionate about this bill and it is important! If you find that your Representative serves on the Health Finance and Policy Committee, please contact Dr. Al Balay or Kim Horne. We would love to get you involved in helping us arrange a meeting with them.

Dr. Al Balay and Kim Horne, CVT, recently finished presenting at two Town Hall meetings. September 27th was in Bloomington, MN and October 11th was in Rochester, MN. The entire hour of these meetings were dedicated to discussing licensure of veterinary technicians. Co-sponsored by the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation (MVMF) and the Minnesota Association of Veterinary Technicians (MAVT), attendees enjoyed a social hour with hors d'oeuvre and refreshments, followed by a buffet dinner and presentation.

If you did not have an opportunity to attend these town hall meetings, please join us at the MVMA and MAVT convention, where Dr. Balay and Kim will be presenting on Thursday (MVMA Practice Plus session) and on both Friday and Saturday at the MAVT convention.

We are really hoping this will be the year we cross the finish line. If we are successful in 2024, the licensure of veterinary technicians could start as early as 2026. Please consider getting involved so we can "Get R Done", and Dr. Balay and Kim can start enjoying retirement!