



**Resolution 94-24-R1:  
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SCHOOL  
OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
AT MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY**

**DATE:** January 31, 2024

- WHEREAS:** the Commonwealth of Kentucky currently does not have a School of Veterinary Medicine and spent \$5.4 Million in fiscal year 2022-2023 and \$5.6 Million in fiscal year 2023-2024 to fund a total of 168 veterinary slots for Kentucky students with out-of-state universities, and
- WHEREAS:** In the United States there are only 33 veterinary colleges accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), and based upon statistics collected by the AVMA, only approximately 86,000 veterinarians are currently practicing in the United States, and
- WHEREAS:** the United States and Kentucky currently do not have enough veterinarians to meet the growing needs of agricultural, public health, and large and small animal owners, and
- WHEREAS:** the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), reports that there are 86,300 veterinarians in the United States and this occupation is expected to grow by 19% by 2031 producing a needed employment change of 16,800 veterinarians for a total of 103,100. Furthermore, the BLS reports a total of 122,800 veterinarian technologists/technicians are working today and the field is expected to grow by 20% by 2031 to 146,900.
- WHEREAS:** per the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC), Colleges/Schools of Veterinary Medicine accept about 4500 new first year students each year from a pool of over 10,000 applicants. Approximately 70 students from Kentucky are accepted each year to out-of-state veterinary schools. Currently, there are 38 seats at Auburn University and 4 seats at Tuskegee University for Kentucky Residents.
- WHEREAS:** the Hutson School of Agriculture has the estimated largest pre-veterinary medicine/veterinary technology enrollment of any university in Kentucky, with over 400 enrolled students for fall 2023 and a total enrollment of over 1300 students in the entire Hutson School of Agriculture.



- WHEREAS** the Hutson School of Agriculture's Pre-Veterinary/Veterinary Technology programs has been AVMA accredited since 1986, one of only three fully accredited programs in the state of Kentucky. The programs have a unique curriculum instructed in the health care of cattle, horses, pigs, dogs, cats, laboratory animals and exotics. The curriculum is designed for students to gain acceptance into a veterinary school or prepare to take the VTNE to be a licensed Veterinary Technician.
- WHEREAS:** the Hutson School of Agriculture is home to the A. Carman Animal Health Technology Center, located on Murray State's West Farm in Calloway County, and is equipped with state-of-the-art supplies and equipment to prepare students for a career in the field of veterinary medicine, including multiple laboratories, a pharmacy, a surgery suite, and the Animal Health program is a very active and strong academic area at Murray State University.
- WHEREAS:** the Breathitt Veterinary Center (BVC) at Murray State University, under the direction of the Hutson School of Agriculture, is a nationally preeminent animal disease diagnostic laboratory dedicated to protecting the invaluable assets of Kentucky's equine, livestock and poultry industries and is housed in Christian County, Kentucky, and
- WHEREAS:** the Breathitt Veterinary Center (BVC) is the only Level 1 Laboratory Status designated by the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory (NAHLN) system and one of only 60 laboratories in the United States and one of only 23 with a Level 1 status, and
- WHEREAS:** the Breathitt Veterinary Center (BVC) is fully accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) for all species and would serve as an important teaching/clinical laboratory for a school of veterinary medicine, and
- WHEREAS:** Calloway County and Christian County are both conveniently located in the heart of Kentucky's agricultural industry, where a rapid increase in livestock farming, poultry producers, etc. are being realized, and




**WHEREAS:** in 1973, the Murray State University Board of Regents unanimously passed a resolution to strongly recommend that a school of veterinary medicine be established at Murray State University and in fifty years, no progress by the Commonwealth of Kentucky has been made in establishing a school, and

**WHEREAS:** on August 25, 2023 the Murray State University Board of Regents unanimously passed a resolution of support to create a task force and begin a feasibility study to examine the statewide shortage of veterinarians and work towards the development of a School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University, and

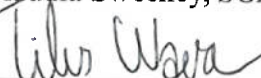
**LET IT BE RESOLVED:** that the Murray State University Student Government Association fully supports House Bill 400, which was introduced by House Agriculture Committee Chair Richard Heath on January 29, 2024. This bill provides the authorizing language for a School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University. We urge the Kentucky House of Representatives to pass this bill. We also urge the Kentucky State Senate to fully support the creation of a School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University through passage of House Bill 400 – or a companion bill to create a School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University in the Kentucky State Senate.

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