

Certainly the contributions of veterinary medicine to human health, both directly and indirectly, equal or exceed those of the other allied professions which are to receive this support.

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UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER,
Kansas City, April 16, 1968.

HON. HARLEY O. STAGGERS,
Chairman, House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN STAGGERS: I am respectfully presenting my views concerning the proposed legislation for the support of veterinary medical education and requesting that consideration be given to including the 18 veterinary schools and colleges in the basic improvement grant program.

My experience has been in human medical education but I have visited several of the veterinary medical schools and know well several of their Deans. Furthermore, at the request of the Association of American Medical Colleges, I have led in developing a federation of schools of health professional educational organizations and have purposely involved in this federation the Association of Schools of Veterinary Medicine as well as medical schools, nursing schools, pharmacy schools, and allied health professional schools. This new federation scheduled next to meet on July 10, 1968, also includes representatives from the Office of the Secretary of HEW and the Bureau of Health Manpower.

Further testimony as to the importance of the veterinary medical schools in the health professional educational team lies in the fact that virtually all medical schools now employ veterinary physicians to care for experimental and teaching animals. Still more important, however, is the fact that more and more human disease analogues have been found in animals thus providing prototypes for the study of human disease. Animal vectors in the transmission of human disease are still poorly understood.

You may question the lack of progress in this regard until recently by pointing to the fact that all medical schools have used experimental animals for years. This raises a very important point in that in the past investigators in medical schools have been attempting to produce human diseases in normal animals for study purposes. The medical school animal laboratories have not focused on naturally occurring analogues of human disease in animals. The latter has been done by veterinary schools which have been poorly supported and overburdened with teaching so that research in veterinary schools has not flourished until recently. Moreover veterinary medicine has been oriented to agricultural activities as evidenced by the fact that many of the veterinary schools are in connection with state agricultural colleges and not state universities, the latter of which harbor the medical schools in our state university systems.

In Kansas our veterinary school is 200 miles from the Medical School. The Dean of Kansas State College of Veterinary Medicine and I have been attempting to bring our two staffs together in spite of the distance problems. In short by this letter I am describing veterinary medicine as a progressively more important part of the health team and urge that in federal legislation it be treated as such.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE A. WOLF, Jr., M.D.
Dean and Provost.