

improvement grants for support of the institutional function at schools of pharmacy and veterinary science."

In conclusion, we support and commend the general objectives of H.R. 15757 and hope that the modification we are suggesting can be incorporated into this legislation.

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STATEMENT OF JESSE D. DERRICK, D.V.M., PRESIDENT, THE GEORGIA VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The Veterinary Profession, while the oldest of the medical professions, is probably the least understood insofar as the importance and contributions to human health and welfare.

Most familiar to the average citizen is the professional care provided for the animal population. The care of animal pets in our society is an essential and much appreciated service, but the major contribution to man's well being has been the high level of professional care provided to the livestock population which serves as a source of food. Within recent years an additional responsibility of the veterinary profession has emerged to the forefront—participation in biomedical research programs to study and resolve the health problems of man.

Within this sphere of professional activity, the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine assumes two major roles. First he functions as an independent scientist studying disease processes in animals and providing basic biological data and knowledge which can be extrapolated to man. Each of us is already benefiting as a result of knowledge gained through the use of animals and the future resolution of major health problems such as cancer, heart diseases, mental health, and population control will, to a significant degree, depend on the availability of well trained scientists in veterinary medicine.

Secondly, the increased use of animals as experimental models for biological research has placed a demand on the veterinary profession which far exceeds the ability of veterinary schools to train adequate members in the facilities presently available according to a recent survey of the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources of the National Academy of Science. There are over 2000 institutions and facilities in the United States whose programs require the use of research animals.

All of these need access to veterinary support by veterinarians specifically trained in the specialty of laboratory animal medicine, and, at the present time there are only 106 who have been certified by this Specialty Board. It is probable that the entire output of veterinarians from all the schools in the United States would be required to meet the existing need for veterinarians in laboratory animal medicine, and this is only one of the specialties in biomedical research dependent on the knowledge and special skills of the veterinary scientist.

In addition to vastly increased activities of veterinarians in biomedical research, the recent passage of meats and poultry inspection regulations to protect the consumer requires increased number of veterinarians.

Further requirements are compounded by the increased need for animal protein food stuff in the world calls for more veterinarians to control diseases. The World Food Agricultural Organization estimates that a 50% reduction of losses from animal diseases in the developing countries is a realistic goal and that it would result in 25% increase in animal protein produced. This reduction in animal disease losses can come about only by an increased supply of veterinarians educated to conduct biomedical investigations to solve many of the problems resulting in death of animals and likewise in man where the diseases are transmissible to man.

The present occupations of veterinarians in the USA are as follows: 7 percent in large animal practice, 19 percent in small animal practice, 31 percent in mixed practice for a total of 57 percent of the veterinarians in the USA that are conducting practice. The remaining 43 percent are engaged in other activities such as teaching, research, consumer regulatory work for the government and industry.

The need for veterinarians considerably exceeds the productive capacity of the present education system. A long range forecast indicates that 40,000 veterinarians will be needed by 1980. This figure is 12,000 in excess of what our present veterinary colleges can provide. Obviously the additional 12,000 veterinarians can be educated only by enlarging existing schools and building new schools.

There are 18 schools of veterinary medicine for the 50 states of the USA and each serves more than the state in which it is located. The School of Veterinary