

SB 2140

January 20, 2021

Sen. Joan Heckaman

Chairman Schaible and Members of the Committee:

I am Sen. Joan Heckaman and I am here to lend my support to SB 2140 that addresses loan repayments by students studying veterinary medicine. This bill addresses a claw back on the dates of repeal of this provision.

I have been on both sides of this fence on this issue in past sessions but have come to realize penalizing people does not entice them to return to North Dakota, nor does it send a message that we are here to support our agriculture industry and people who care for large and small animals. I believe the removal of the repayment stipulation may increase the number of veterinary students returning to begin their practice in the state.

You will hear from veterinarians on how this program works and what the future holds for animal agriculture and large and small animal practices throughout the state.

I would ask that you give SB 2140 a Do Pass recommendation.