

North Dakota
STOCKMEN'S ASSOCIATION



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Testimony to the Senate Appropriations Committee on SB 2004

Jan. 14, 2021

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee. My name is Julie Ellingson and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association. The Stockmen's Association is a 91-year-old beef cattle trade organization representing approximately 3,000 cattle-ranching families in our state.

The North Dakota Stockmen's Association supports SB 2004 and, specifically, its provisions for the Veterinary Loan Repayment Program, which helps qualified veterinarians offset a portion of the debt incurred in pursuit of their veterinary medicine degrees in return for their service in certain high-priority veterinary shortage situations. It incentivizes large-animal veterinarians to practice in North Dakota, where there continues to be some shortages, and helps place the right kind of vets in the places they are needed.

North Dakota cattle producers regard their veterinarians as critical partners in their operations, helping them maintain healthy herds and, ultimately, profitable businesses.

For these reasons, we ask for your favorable consideration of this program and for you to maintain funding for it.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (701) 223-2522 or jellingson@ndstockmen.org.