



Help Our Kids Become Tomorrow's Veterinarians



Vote **YES** on
SB 2140

The ISSUE:

The North Dakota Legislature in 2019 approved a “**Comeback or Payback**” provision to the Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP). The legislation was added during the last few days of the session and **did not allow for a legislative hearing or testimony from stakeholders.**

The “**Comeback or Payback**” provision means that newly enrolled (2020 and beyond) North Dakota students in veterinary medicine programs through the PSEP will be subject to paying all of the PSEP funds back unless the student returns to North Dakota within 36 months of graduation to provide a service payback.*

**deferred for full time graduate studies or called to active military duty*

PSEP History:

- Established in 1970s to provide **access to slots** in veterinary medicine, optometry and dentistry to **facilitate access** to meet ND industry needs.
- There was a service payback initially that was repealed in 1983.
- The payback was repealed:
 - ~ Difficulty for some PSEP participants to locate employment in ND.
 - ~ Terms of repayment note were difficult to enforce and collect.

PSEP Study Findings:

~ **Repayment had not significantly affected return rates to ND** (2006 study).

WHY THE “COMEBACK or PAYBACK” PROVISION HURTS OUR KIDS...



Our graduates **AREN'T GUARANTEED A JOB** in ND and **WORKFORCE NEEDS MAY NOT FIT THEIR SPECIALIZATION.**

- Many of our students already return to ND to work (48% return rate).
- Veterinary medicine students often track their education along specialized career areas and there may not be jobs in ND that are suited for their education and skills.



Our students **ALREADY HAVE CRUSHING DEBT** after graduation. It **WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT** for our students **TO PAY THE PSEP MONEY BACK.**

- Our veterinary PSEP students have an average debt load of \$163,000 at graduation. A PSEP payback (ranging from \$51,000—\$129,000) will add to the already high student debt.
- PSEP payback will be assessed **ALL AT ONCE**. Veterinarians early in their careers will not have the collateral necessary to obtain a loan to cover the payback.



Requiring a payback equates to more than **DOUBLING THE OUT OF POCKET COSTS** for most of our students' education.

- Because ND universities don't offer a veterinary medicine degree, our students are at a huge disadvantage for tuition costs. Our students are charged “nonresident” tuition rates and most of them are charged more than double of what their “resident” classmates are charged.



NOT ALL VETERINARIAN JOBS IN ND PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR A LIVING WAGE. The median veterinarian salary (3-4 years experience) in ND is \$76,484 and debt is substantial.

- Many job opportunities in ND are rural with a mixed animal or large animal focus and may not support the debt of veterinarians or be compatible with employment needs (i.e. mentorship, practice costs).

HELP OUR KIDS BE SUCCESSFUL!

PSEP is necessary for access into veterinary schools and this support **PROVIDES A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD** for education costs.

?? FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ??

How many veterinary medicine students can participate in the PSEP each year?

The budget includes 12 veterinary medicine slots each year:

*WICHE Veterinary Med (1 slot)

University of MN Veterinary Medicine (2 slots)

Iowa State Veterinary Medicine (4 slots)

Kansas State Veterinary Medicine (5 slots)

The **Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) is a regional organization created by the Western Regional Education Compact and adopted in the 1950s by Western states. WICHE was created to facilitate resource sharing among the higher education systems of the West. **WICHE exchange programs lower tuition costs for out-of-state students at participating colleges and universities in select western states and territories.***

How many veterinary medicine PSEP spots have been filled over the past 5 years?

2016-2017	11 applicants	6 funded
2017-2018	17 applicants	10 funded
2018 -2019	7 applicants	3 funded
2019-2020	15 applicants	6 funded
2020—2021	23 applicants	12 funded

How much of the tuition is paid by the student and how much is paid by the ND University System (NDUS) for veterinary medicine programs? (estimated rates from NDUS for the cohort 2019-2020 students).

University	Tuition Paid by ND Student Over Four Years	Amount of Tuition Paid through PSEP Over Four Years
Iowa State University	\$107,982	\$115,284
Kansas State University	\$ 89,740	\$114,452
University of Minnesota	\$131,040	\$ 51,581
Colorado State University*	\$149,476	\$129,600

Do most North Dakota veterinary students utilize the PSEP for access to veterinary medicine schools?

YES. Over the past five years 37/42 or 88% of veterinary medicine students utilized the professional student exchange program.

Why shouldn't the state expect a service payback since money is paid to help fund a student's education?

The support that ND taxpayers provide for our veterinary medicine students is far reaching in benefits.

Veterinary medicine is a very diverse profession. Veterinarians work on beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, poultry, horses, companion animals, zoo, marine and exotic animals; practicing in these areas differ remarkably.

In addition, there are many specialties in veterinary medicine such as surgery, critical care, internal medicine, dermatology, ophthalmology, cardiology, neurology, toxicology, and pharmacology to name a few.

North Dakota does not provide employment opportunities in all of these areas of veterinary medicine. However, the state can still benefit by homegrown North Dakotans serving us from other states. They do this specifically by:

- keeping our animal food supply safe
- working in research, academia, government or industry
- acquiring a specialty and providing consultative services in ND or serving citizens from ND that travel to specialty centers
- gaining valuable experience and skills outside of ND, returning to ND several years after graduation and bringing their expertise back to the state

The return rate of our veterinary students is averaging 48%. Like other ND educated students (i.e. doctors, pharmacists etc.) there are many factors that drive decisions to employment outside of North Dakota. Even though many students are educated in North Dakota at tax supported institutions, there is not a service payback to work in ND attached to their education.