

North Dakota Stockmen's Association
Testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on HB 1004
Jan. 19, 2023

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the House Appropriations Committee. For the record, my name is Julie Ellingson and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association, a 93-year-old beef cattle trade organization representing more than 3,100 cattle-ranching families across our state.

We appear here in support of HB 1004 and, specifically, the Veterinary Loan Repayment Program, which incentivizes large-animal veterinarians to practice in North Dakota. There continues to be vet shortages in parts of the state, and this program helps place the right kind of vets in places they are needed. North Dakota cattle producers regard their veterinarians as critical partners in their operations, helping them maintain a healthy herd and, ultimately, a profitable business.

For these reasons, we ask for your favorable consideration of this program as you work through this budget.