



March 31, 2014

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Waxman,

On behalf of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and our over 2.5 million members nationwide, I write in strong support of H.R.1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act. This vital legislation will help protect the ability of mobile veterinarians to practice in the field.

The Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act amends the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) to clarify that veterinarians may legally transport, administer, and dispense controlled substances in the usual course of their practice. Some field offices of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) have claimed that the CSA prohibits veterinarians from dispensing drugs in any location where the veterinarian is not registered with the DEA. As a result, veterinarians with rural, mobile, or ambulatory practices risk agency sanctions when they transport common veterinary drugs in their practice vehicles or dispense them at locations other than a registered address. Congressional action is needed to ensure that veterinarians can confidently provide necessary care without fear of unwarranted agency interference.

Our own field work hangs in the balance, given the uncertainty this has created. The ASPCA provides a broad range of life-saving services in the field. Our mobile veterinarians perform much of their work in irregular and unpredictable locations. Mobile spay/neuter and vaccination clinics, disaster response, and animal cruelty investigations necessitate travel to remote and underserved communities. Mobile practitioners cannot properly treat the animals under their care without access to controlled medications.

The Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act currently has bipartisan support from 177 cosponsors, including 28 members of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Nancy Perry,
Senior Vice President, Government Relations