

**Floor Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2014**  
**July 8, 2014**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1528, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act, which was introduced by Representatives Schrader and Yoho.

In April, the Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously approved this commonsense legislation to provide peace of mind to our nation's veterinarians by making it clear that they are permitted to transport and administer necessary medications to their animal patients outside of their principal place of business without fear of enforcement action.

Veterinary medicine is a mobile profession, particularly in rural areas where the patients being treated are often large animals like horses and cows. It is simply impractical to transport them long distances to a hospital or clinic for care. Accordingly, vets must routinely leave their physical office to administer therapies, often times in emergency situations. Prohibiting vets from doing so would needlessly cause many animals to suffer and even perish.

Unfortunately, the Drug Enforcement Administration has recently informed veterinarians that they will be in violation of the Controlled Substances Act when transporting or dispensing controlled substances outside of their registered principal place of business. Translation - vets will be breaking the law if they administer care in a local stable, or a local pasture. This commonsense bill would amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify that, so long as the veterinarian is licensed to practice medicine in the state where the controlled substance is being transported and dispensed in the usual course of veterinary practice, they cannot be required to have a separate registration for each site at which they conduct such activities. In doing so, animal health care providers can continue to tend to their patients without fear of punishment or onerous requirements that large animals be transported long distances for treatments.

H.R. 1528 is supported by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Animal Hospital Association, and many others.

I am proud to support it, and urge all of my colleagues to do the same. The Subcommittee on Health has a proven track record of bipartisan success, and today's approval of this bill adds to that record. I yield back.

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