

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4497

To expand the workforce of veterinarians specialized in the care and conservation of wild animals and their ecosystems, and to develop educational programs focused on wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 21, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. GRJALVA, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To expand the workforce of veterinarians specialized in the care and conservation of wild animals and their ecosystems, and to develop educational programs focused on wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be referred to as  
5 the “Wildlife and Zoological Veterinary Medicine En-  
6 hancement Act of 2010”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of  
 2 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Purposes.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.
- Sec. 5. Implementing authority and cooperation between departments and agencies.

TITLE I—WILDLIFE AND ZOOLOGICAL VETERINARY MEDICINE  
 WORKFORCE EXPANSION

- Sec. 101. Grants to create positions for wildlife and zoological veterinarians.
- Sec. 102. Loan repayment program for veterinary students and veterinarians specializing in wildlife and zoological populations.
- Sec. 103. Scholarship program for veterinary students specializing in wildlife and zoological populations.

TITLE II—WILDLIFE AND ZOOLOGICAL VETERINARY MEDICINE  
 EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 201. Grants to accredited schools and colleges of veterinary medicine for curricula in wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine.
- Sec. 202. Grants to develop training programs in wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine.

3 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Fish and wildlife are important natural re-  
 6 sources of the United States. They belong to all citi-  
 7 zens, and are managed in perpetuity by State and  
 8 Federal conservation agencies, often with significant  
 9 assistance from universities, zoos, aquariums, and  
 10 nonprofit and non-governmental organizations.

11 (2) Wildlife and zoological veterinarians are the  
 12 primary source of essential health care for wild ani-  
 13 mals in their natural habitat and in captivity in fa-  
 14 cilities such as zoos, wildlife refuges, breeding re-  
 15 serves, and aquariums.

1           (3) According to the Department of the Inte-  
2           rior, wildlife disease expertise and resources are crit-  
3           ical to protecting both human and animal life.

4           (4) Wildlife veterinarians have been actively in-  
5           volved in preventing, detecting, and responding to  
6           such important exotic, dangerous, and zoonotic dis-  
7           eases as anthrax, avian influenza, brucellosis, tuber-  
8           culosis, West Nile virus, SARS, chronic wasting dis-  
9           ease, and foot and mouth disease.

10          (5) Globalization, climate change, and wildlife  
11          habitat loss and alteration, along with a growing  
12          interface among humans, livestock, and wildlife have  
13          increased the threat posed by emerging infectious  
14          diseases to humans, domestic animals, and wildlife.

15          (6) According to the February 2009 report by  
16          the Government Accountability Office entitled “Vet-  
17          erinerian Workforce: Actions Are Needed to Ensure  
18          Sufficient Capacity for Protecting Public and Ani-  
19          mal Health”, the Nation is facing a growing short-  
20          age of veterinarians, and the Federal government  
21          may not have the necessary veterinarian workforce  
22          to control pandemic and large-scale outbreaks of dis-  
23          ease.

24          (7) There is a shortage of positions for wildlife  
25          and zoological veterinarians at the State, Federal,

1 nonprofit, and university levels due to inadequate  
2 funding. According to the American Veterinary Med-  
3 ical Association (“AVMA”), less than one percent of  
4 AVMA members identify themselves as wildlife or  
5 zoological veterinarians.

6 (8) According to the AVMA, a growing number  
7 of students enter veterinary schools with an interest  
8 in wildlife or zoological veterinary medicine, but  
9 choose different fields of study and practice due to  
10 the small number of positions available for wildlife  
11 and zoological veterinarians upon graduation.

12 (9) Veterinary students face large educational  
13 debt upon graduation. According to the AVMA,  
14 graduating student loan debt averaged \$130,000 in  
15 2009.

16 (10) According to the American Association of  
17 Wildlife Veterinarians (“AAWV”) and National As-  
18 sociation of Federal Veterinarians (“NAFV”), sala-  
19 ries for wildlife and zoological veterinarians are rel-  
20 atively low compared to the average salaries of vet-  
21 erinarians in companion animal medicine. Lower sal-  
22 aries, combined with high educational debt and the  
23 small number of positions available in wildlife and  
24 zoological veterinary medicine, discourage students

1 from pursuing careers in wildlife or zoological veteri-  
2 nary medicine.

3 (11) According to the AAWV and NAFV,  
4 schools and colleges of veterinary medicine lack both  
5 a comprehensive curriculum and sufficient numbers  
6 of formal educational programs specializing in wild-  
7 life or zoological veterinary medicine to adequately  
8 prepare graduates for a competitive workplace.

9 (12) Upon graduation from a school or college  
10 of veterinary medicine, veterinarians often lack the  
11 credentials and sufficient relevant professional expe-  
12 rience to allow them to make significant contribu-  
13 tions to, or make them competitive for, the few posi-  
14 tions available for wildlife and zoological veterinar-  
15 ians.

16 (13) According to the AVMA, while some train-  
17 ing opportunities exist for aspiring wildlife and zoo-  
18 logical veterinarians, such opportunities are not  
19 available each year, pay low salaries or stipends, and  
20 are highly competitive.

21 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

22 The purposes of this Act are—

23 (1) to create new funded positions for wildlife  
24 and zoological veterinarians;

1           (2) to limit the amount of educational debt for  
2           veterinary medicine students while providing incen-  
3           tives to study and practice wildlife or zoological vet-  
4           erinary medicine;

5           (3) to help schools and colleges of veterinary  
6           medicine develop pilot curricula specializing in wild-  
7           life and zoological veterinary medicine; and

8           (4) to expand the number of training programs  
9           in wildlife or zoological veterinary medicine for vet-  
10          erinary students.

11 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

12          For purposes of this Act, the following definitions  
13          apply:

14           (1) AAWV.—The term “AAWV” means the  
15           American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians.

16           (2) ACCREDITED SCHOOL OR COLLEGE OF VET-  
17           ERINARY MEDICINE.—The term “accredited school  
18           or college of veterinary medicine” means an institu-  
19           tion of higher education (as defined in section 101  
20           of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
21           1001)) that provides an educational program for  
22           which the institution awards a doctoral degree in  
23           veterinary medicine.

24           (3) AVMA.—The term “AVMA” means the  
25           American Veterinary Medical Association.

1           (4) DOCTORAL DEGREE IN VETERINARY MEDI-  
2           CINE.—The term “doctoral degree in veterinary  
3           medicine” means a doctor of veterinary medicine or  
4           veterinary medical doctor from an accredited school  
5           or college of veterinary medicine.

6           (5) GRADUATE DEGREE IN VETERINARY MEDI-  
7           CINE.—The term “graduate degree in veterinary  
8           medicine” means a master’s degree or Ph.D. in vet-  
9           erinary medicine from an accredited school or college  
10          of veterinary medicine.

11          (6) NAFV.—The term “NAFV” means the Na-  
12          tional Association of Federal Veterinarians.

13          (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
14          the Secretary of the Interior.

15          (8) STATE OR TERRITORY.—The term “State  
16          or Territory” means each of the several States, the  
17          District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto  
18          Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States  
19          Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the North-  
20          ern Mariana Islands.

21          (9) VETERINARY MEDICINE.—The term “veteri-  
22          nary medicine” means all branches of, and special-  
23          ties included within, the practice of veterinary medi-  
24          cine, including—

1           (A) the diagnosis, treatment, correction,  
2           change, alleviation, prevention, management of,  
3           or research on animal disease, illness, pain, de-  
4           formity, defect, injury, or other physical, dental,  
5           or mental conditions; and

6           (B) the management of ecosystems on  
7           which wildlife and zoological populations de-  
8           pend.

9           (10) WILDLIFE.—The term “wildlife” means  
10          any member of the animal kingdom and includes  
11          mammals, fish, birds, amphibians, reptiles, mollusks,  
12          or arthropods. Such term does not include plant or  
13          plant matter or any other member of another king-  
14          dom.

15          (11) WILDLIFE OR VETERINARY INSTITU-  
16          TION.—The term “wildlife or veterinary institution”  
17          means—

18               (A) any agency or department of a State  
19               or Territory or of the Federal government that  
20               employs wildlife or zoological veterinarians, in-  
21               cluding a wildlife conservation or natural re-  
22               source management agency;

23               (B) a nonprofit wildlife conservation orga-  
24               nization;

1 (C) a zoo or aquarium accredited by the  
2 Association of Zoos and Aquariums (“AZA”);

3 (D) an accredited school or college of vet-  
4 erinary medicine;

5 (E) a public or nonprofit department of  
6 comparative medicine, department of compara-  
7 tive medicine, department of veterinary science,  
8 school of public health, or school of medicine  
9 that is accredited by a nationally recognized ac-  
10 crediting agency or association recognized by  
11 the Secretary of Education;

12 (F) a State or Territory, national, allied,  
13 or regional veterinary organization or specialty  
14 board recognized by the American Veterinary  
15 Medical Association; or

16 (G) a university research foundation or  
17 veterinary medical foundation.

18 (12) WILDLIFE OR ZOOLOGICAL VETERI-  
19 NARIAN.—The term “wildlife or zoological veteri-  
20 narian” means an individual who has received a doc-  
21 toral degree in veterinary medicine from an accred-  
22 ited school or college of veterinary medicine and  
23 practices veterinary medicine as applied to wildlife  
24 populations—

25 (A) in their natural habitat; or

1 (B) in captivity in conservation centers in-  
2 cluding zoos, aquariums, wildlife refuges, and  
3 breeding reserves.

4 **SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTING AUTHORITY AND COOPERATION**  
5 **BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.**

6 The Secretary of the Interior, acting, as the Sec-  
7 retary determines appropriate, through the Director of the  
8 National Wildlife Health Center of the United States Geo-  
9 logical Survey, or through other heads of agencies within  
10 the Department of the Interior, shall carry out this Act.  
11 The Secretary shall cooperate with the heads of other ex-  
12 ecutive departments and agencies, including the Secretary  
13 of Agriculture, the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
14 ices, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of Edu-  
15 cation, as appropriate to carry out this Act.

16 **TITLE I—WILDLIFE AND ZOO-**  
17 **LOGICAL VETERINARY MEDI-**  
18 **CINE WORKFORCE EXPAN-**  
19 **SION**

20 **SEC. 101. GRANTS TO CREATE POSITIONS FOR WILDLIFE**  
21 **AND ZOOLOGICAL VETERINARIANS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—To create additional clinical and  
23 research positions for wildlife and zoological veterinarians,  
24 the Secretary may award grants to wildlife or veterinary

1 institutions that submit to the Secretary a proposal de-  
2 signed to create such positions. A proposal—

3 (1) shall be submitted at such time, and in such  
4 form and manner, as the Secretary may require; and

5 (2) shall contain such information as the Sec-  
6 retary may require, including a description of—

7 (A) each such position;

8 (B) the need of the wildlife or veterinary  
9 institution for each such position;

10 (C) how each such position will advance  
11 the conservation and management of wildlife or  
12 zoological populations; and

13 (D) how the wildlife or veterinary institu-  
14 tion will use funds awarded under a grant.

15 (b) AWARD.—The Secretary shall establish proce-  
16 dures to ensure that, under this section, proposals are rig-  
17 orously reviewed and grants are competitively awarded  
18 based on such considerations as the Secretary may deter-  
19 mine necessary. Such considerations shall include—

20 (1) the ability of a wildlife or veterinary institu-  
21 tion to describe and justify the need for each posi-  
22 tion in its proposal under subsection (a)(2); and

23 (2) the ability of the wildlife or veterinary insti-  
24 tution to create such positions.

1 (c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding a grant under this  
2 section, the Secretary shall give preference to wildlife or  
3 veterinary institutions that will create positions in areas  
4 of need, including—

5 (1) wildlife disease research;

6 (2) disease surveillance;

7 (3) wildlife disease training;

8 (4) ecology and wildlife population manage-  
9 ment; and

10 (5) conservation and management of the health  
11 of endangered, threatened, and sensitive species.

12 (d) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of a grant  
13 made to a wildlife or veterinary institution under this sec-  
14 tion shall be determined by the Secretary, taking into ac-  
15 count such factors as the Secretary may consider appro-  
16 priate, including—

17 (1) the contents of the proposal submitted by  
18 the wildlife or veterinary institution under subsection  
19 (a); and

20 (2) the number of grants available to all wildlife  
21 or veterinary institutions.

22 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received under a  
23 grant under this section shall only be used by a wildlife  
24 or veterinary institution for purposes determined by the  
25 Secretary to be appropriate to create and support posi-

1 tions created under the proposal submitted by the wildlife  
2 or veterinary institution under subsection (a), including  
3 the payment of—

4 (1) salaries for such positions; and

5 (2) costs associated with the acquisition of ma-  
6 terial and equipment necessary for the creation of  
7 the additional positions.

8 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
9 authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year  
10 2010, and such sums as may be necessary for each subse-  
11 quent fiscal year, for grants under this section. Amounts  
12 appropriated under this subsection are authorized to re-  
13 main available until expended.

14 **SEC. 102. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR VETERINARY**  
15 **STUDENTS AND VETERINARIANS SPECIAL-**  
16 **IZING IN WILDLIFE AND ZOOLOGICAL POPU-**  
17 **LATIONS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—To expand the workforce of wild-  
19 life and zoological veterinarians, the Secretary shall estab-  
20 lish a program, to be known as the “Wildlife and Zoolog-  
21 ical Veterinary Workforce Loan Repayment Program” to  
22 enter into agreements with eligible individuals to make  
23 payments on their behalf for repayment of their edu-  
24 cational loans.

1 (b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this  
2 section, an individual shall be treated as an eligible indi-  
3 vidual if the individual—

4 (1) is a United States citizen, national, or law-  
5 ful permanent resident;

6 (2) either—

7 (A) has received, not before the date that  
8 is 10 years prior to the date on which the indi-  
9 vidual submits an application under paragraph  
10 (3)—

11 (i) a doctoral degree in veterinary  
12 medicine; or

13 (ii) a graduate degree in veterinary  
14 medicine, providing that the individual re-  
15 ceived such degree after receiving a doc-  
16 toral degree in veterinary medicine;

17 that has been approved by the Secretary for  
18 purposes of this section; or

19 (B) is enrolled in an accredited school or  
20 college of veterinary medicine in a full-time or  
21 part-time program that—

22 (i) leads to—

23 (I) a doctoral degree in veteri-  
24 nary medicine; or

1 (II) a graduate degree in veteri-  
2 nary medicine, providing that the indi-  
3 vidual has received a doctoral degree  
4 in veterinary medicine; and

5 (ii) has been approved by the Sec-  
6 retary for purposes of this section; and

7 (3) has prepared and submitted to the Sec-  
8 retary an application at such time and in such form  
9 and manner as is specified by the Secretary.

10 (c) AGREEMENT.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—No payment shall be made  
12 on behalf of an eligible individual under the Wildlife  
13 and Zoological Veterinary Workforce Loan Repay-  
14 ment Program unless the eligible individual has en-  
15 tered into an agreement with the Secretary under  
16 this subsection.

17 (2) CONTENTS.—An agreement under this sub-  
18 section shall contain—

19 (A) an agreement by the Secretary to  
20 make payments under subsection (e); and

21 (B) an agreement by the eligible indi-  
22 vidual—

23 (i) to serve for a period of no fewer  
24 than 4 consecutive years at a wildlife or  
25 veterinary institution as—

1 (I) a full-time wildlife or zoolog-  
2 ical veterinarian; or

3 (II) with the approval of the Sec-  
4 retary, a part-time wildlife or zoolog-  
5 ical veterinarian, if no full-time posi-  
6 tions are available; and

7 (ii) to complete the service in clause  
8 (i) not later than 10 years after the later  
9 of the date on which the eligible indi-  
10 vidual—

11 (I) receives a doctoral or grad-  
12 uate degree in veterinary medicine  
13 under subsection (b)(2); and

14 (II) enters into the agreement  
15 under subsection (a).

16 (d) PREFERENCE.—In making payments under this  
17 section, the Secretary shall give preference to an eligible  
18 individual who—

19 (1) holds or is pursuing a doctoral or graduate  
20 degree in veterinary medicine with a specialty in  
21 wildlife or zoological veterinary medicine; or

22 (2) is currently practicing wildlife or zoological  
23 veterinary medicine.

24 (e) PAYMENTS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Payments on behalf of an el-  
2           igible individual under this section shall include pay-  
3           ment of the principal and interest on the govern-  
4           ment loans of the eligible individual, to the extent  
5           that the loans cover such expenses as are determined  
6           by the Secretary to be associated with obtaining a  
7           doctoral or graduate degree in veterinary medicine  
8           under subsection (b)(2), including—

9                   (A) tuition expenses;

10                   (B) reasonable living expenses; and

11                   (C) all other reasonable educational ex-  
12           penses incurred by the grantee, including fees,  
13           laboratory expenses, and expenses for books  
14           and equipment.

15           (2) AMOUNT.—

16                   (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limita-  
17           tions in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall  
18           develop regulations to determine the amounts of  
19           payments for each eligible individual under this  
20           section, considering factors including—

21                           (i) the degree held or pursued by the  
22                           eligible individual;

23                           (ii) the training programs in which  
24                           the eligible individual has participated;

1 (iii) the total loan balance paid by the  
2 eligible individual;

3 (iv) the extent to which such deter-  
4 mination affects the ability of the Sec-  
5 retary to maximize the number of agree-  
6 ments that can be provided under this sec-  
7 tion from the amounts appropriated for  
8 such agreements; and

9 (v) the extent to which such deter-  
10 mination provides an incentive to serve as  
11 a wildlife or zoological veterinarian.

12 (B) LIMITATIONS.—Payments on behalf of  
13 an eligible individual under this section shall  
14 not exceed, for each year of service under sub-  
15 section (c)(2)(B)(i)—

16 (i) \$35,000 in aggregate; or

17 (ii) if the total loans of the eligible in-  
18 dividual are less than \$140,000, an  
19 amount that does not exceed an amount  
20 that is two-thirds of the eligible loan bal-  
21 ance.

22 (3) PAYMENT SCHEDULE.—The Secretary may  
23 enter into an agreement with the holder of any loan  
24 for which payments are made to establish a schedule  
25 for making payments under this subsection.

1           (4) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL INCOME  
2 TAX.—No amount awarded under this subsection  
3 shall be includible in income for purposes of chapter  
4 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

5 (f) BREACH OF AGREEMENT.—

6           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2)  
7 and (3), in the case of any agreement entered into  
8 under subsection (a), an eligible individual shall be  
9 liable to the Federal government for an amount, as  
10 determined by the Secretary, not to exceed the total  
11 amount of any payments made by the Secretary on  
12 behalf of the eligible individual under this section,  
13 and for interest on such amount at the maximum  
14 legal prevailing rate, as determined by the Treasurer  
15 of the United States, if the eligible individual fails  
16 to meet a term of the agreement in subsection  
17 (c)(2)(B).

18           (2) DEATH.—Any obligation of an eligible indi-  
19 vidual under the Wildlife and Zoological Veterinary  
20 Workforce Loan Repayment Program for service or  
21 payment of damages shall be cancelled upon the  
22 death of the eligible individual.

23           (3) WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF LIABILITY.—  
24 The Secretary shall provide for the partial or total

1 waiver or suspension of liability under paragraph  
2 (1), or of an obligation under subsection (c)(2), if—

3 (A) compliance by the eligible individual  
4 with the agreement is impossible or would cause  
5 extreme hardship to the eligible individual; or

6 (B) enforcement of the agreement with re-  
7 spect to the eligible individual would be uncon-  
8 scionable.

9 (4) DATE CERTAIN FOR RECOVERY.—Any  
10 amount that the Federal government is entitled to  
11 recover under paragraph (1) shall be paid to the  
12 United States not later than 3 years after the date  
13 on which the United States becomes so entitled.

14 (5) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts recovered under  
15 paragraph (1) shall be available to the Secretary for  
16 making payments under this section and shall re-  
17 main available for such purpose until expended.

18 (6) REGULATIONS.—Prior to implementation of  
19 the Wildlife and Zoological Veterinary Workforce  
20 Loan Repayment Program, the Secretary shall es-  
21 tablish, by regulation, procedures for determining  
22 the amount of the repayment required under para-  
23 graph (1).

1 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
3 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

4 **SEC. 103. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR VETERINARY STU-**  
5 **DENTS SPECIALIZING IN WILDLIFE AND ZOO-**  
6 **LOGICAL POPULATIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—To expand the workforce of wild-  
8 life and zoological veterinarians, the Secretary shall estab-  
9 lish and carry out a program, to be known as the “Wildlife  
10 and Zoological Veterinary Workforce Scholarship Pro-  
11 gram”, under which the Secretary shall enter into agree-  
12 ments with eligible students to award such eligible stu-  
13 dents scholarships for serving as wildlife or zoological vet-  
14 erinarians at wildlife or veterinary institutions upon grad-  
15 uation from an accredited school or college of veterinary  
16 medicine.

17 (b) ELIGIBLE STUDENT.—For purposes of this sec-  
18 tion, an individual shall be treated as an eligible student  
19 if the individual—

20 (1) is a United States citizen, national, or a  
21 lawful permanent resident;

22 (2) is enrolled full-time, or has been accepted  
23 for full-time enrollment, at an accredited school or  
24 college of veterinary medicine;

1           (3) enrolls or plans to enroll, at the accredited  
2 school or college of veterinary medicine in paragraph  
3 (2), in a course of study or program that specializes  
4 or offers courses in wildlife and zoological veterinary  
5 medicine, or any other course of study or program  
6 that has been approved by the Secretary for the pur-  
7 poses of this section; and

8           (4) has submitted to the Secretary an applica-  
9 tion, and a written contract under subsection (d), at  
10 such time and in such form and manner as is speci-  
11 fied by the Secretary.

12 (c) AWARD.—

13           (1) IN GENERAL.—No scholarship shall be  
14 awarded to an eligible student under the Wildlife  
15 and Zoological Veterinary Workforce Program until  
16 the Secretary has accepted the application and writ-  
17 ten contract submitted by the eligible student under  
18 subsection (b)(4).

19           (2) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide  
20 prompt written notice to an individual upon the ac-  
21 ceptance by the Secretary, under paragraph (1), of  
22 a written contract.

23           (d) WRITTEN CONTRACT.—A written contract be-  
24 tween the Secretary and an eligible student under this  
25 subsection shall contain—

1           (1) an agreement by the Secretary to provide  
2 the eligible student with a scholarship for each year  
3 of the course of study or program described in sub-  
4 section (b)(3), for a period of no more than 4 years;

5           (2) an agreement by the eligible student to—

6                 (A) accept the scholarship;

7                 (B) maintain enrollment in the approved  
8 course of study or program described in sub-  
9 section (b)(3) until the individual completes the  
10 course of study or program;

11                (C) maintain, over the course of the course  
12 of study or program described in subsection  
13 (b)(3), such level of academic standing as is de-  
14 termined by the accredited school or college of  
15 veterinary medicine, under regulations pre-  
16 scribed by the Secretary, to be acceptable;

17                (D) commence service at a wildlife or vet-  
18 erinary institution no later than 4 years after  
19 the date the eligible student graduates from the  
20 accredited school or college of veterinary medi-  
21 cine; and

22                (E) serve at the wildlife or veterinary insti-  
23 tution in subparagraph (D) for a period of no  
24 fewer than 4 consecutive years as—

1 (i) a full-time wildlife or zoological  
2 veterinarian; or

3 (ii) with the approval of the Secretary,  
4 a part-time wildlife or zoological veteri-  
5 narian, if no full-time positions are avail-  
6 able;

7 (3) a provision that any financial obligation of  
8 the United States arising out of a contract entered  
9 into under this section and any obligation of the in-  
10 dividual which is conditioned thereon, is contingent  
11 upon funds being appropriated for scholarships  
12 under this section;

13 (4) a statement of the damages to which the  
14 United States shall be entitled, under subsection (i),  
15 for a breach of contract; and

16 (5) such other statements of the rights and li-  
17 abilities of the Secretary and of the individual as are  
18 not inconsistent with the provisions of this title.

19 (e) AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP.—With respect to an  
20 eligible student:

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limitation in  
22 paragraph (2), in determining the amount of a  
23 scholarship, the Secretary shall consider factors in-  
24 cluding—

1 (A) the degree that the eligible student is  
2 pursuing or plans to pursue;

3 (B) educational costs;

4 (C) the financial need of the eligible stu-  
5 dent;

6 (D) the extent to which such determination  
7 affects the ability of the Secretary to maximize  
8 the number of scholarships that can be provided  
9 under this section from the amounts appro-  
10 priated for such scholarships; and

11 (E) the extent to which such determination  
12 provides an incentive to serve as a wildlife or  
13 zoological veterinarian.

14 (2) LIMITATION.—The amount of a scholarship  
15 shall not exceed \$35,000 for any school year.

16 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received under a  
17 scholarship under this section shall be used to cover such  
18 expenses, with respect to an eligible student, as are deter-  
19 mined by the Secretary to be appropriate, including—

20 (1) tuition expenses;

21 (2) reasonable living expenses; and

22 (3) all other reasonable educational expenses in-  
23 curred by the eligible student, including fees, labora-  
24 tory expenses, and expenses for books and equip-  
25 ment.

1           (g) PAYMENTS TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—  
2 Under the Wildlife and Zoological Veterinary Workforce  
3 Scholarship Program, the Secretary may contract with the  
4 accredited school or college of veterinary medicine in which  
5 an eligible student is enrolled or has been accepted for  
6 enrollment to make payments for tuition, reasonable living  
7 expenses, and other reasonable educational expenses under  
8 subsection (f).

9           (h) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL INCOME TAX.—No  
10 amount awarded under subsection (e) or payment made  
11 under subsection (g) shall be includible in income for pur-  
12 poses of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

13           (i) BREACH OF CONTRACT.—

14                 (1) LIABILITY.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and  
15 (3), an eligible student who has entered into a writ-  
16 ten contract with the Secretary under this section  
17 shall be liable to the United States for the following  
18 amounts:

19                         (A) FAILURE TO COMPLETE COURSE OF  
20 STUDY OR PROGRAM.—The eligible student  
21 shall be liable for the total amount that has  
22 been paid to the eligible student under this sec-  
23 tion, and for interest on such amount at the  
24 maximum legal prevailing rate, as determined  
25 by the Treasurer of the United States, if, under

1 the course of study or program under sub-  
2 section (b)(2), the eligible student—

3 (i) fails to maintain an acceptable  
4 level of academic standing under sub-  
5 section (d)(2)(C);

6 (ii) is dismissed from the accredited  
7 school or college of veterinary medicine for  
8 disciplinary reasons; or

9 (iii) voluntarily ceases to participate  
10 in the course of study or program before  
11 completion of the course of study or pro-  
12 gram.

13 (B) FAILURE TO COMPLETE SERVICE OB-  
14 LIGATION.—The eligible student shall be liable  
15 for an amount, as determined by the Secretary,  
16 not to exceed the total amount that has been  
17 awarded to the eligible student under this sec-  
18 tion, and for interest on such amount at the  
19 maximum legal prevailing rate, as determined  
20 by the Treasurer of the United States, if the el-  
21 igible student fails to begin or complete the  
22 service obligation under subsection (d)(2)(D).

23 (2) DEATH.—Any obligation of an eligible stu-  
24 dent under the Wildlife and Zoological Veterinary  
25 Workforce Scholarship Program for service or pay-

1       ment of damages shall be cancelled upon the death  
2       of the eligible student.

3               (3) WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF LIABILITY.—

4       The Secretary shall provide for the partial or total  
5       waiver or suspension of liability under paragraph  
6       (1), or of an obligation under subsection (d)(2), if—

7               (A) compliance by the eligible student with  
8               the written contract is impossible or would  
9               cause extreme hardship to the eligible student;  
10              or

11              (B) enforcement of the written contract  
12              with respect to the eligible student would be un-  
13              conscionable.

14              (4) DATE CERTAIN FOR RECOVERY.—Any  
15       amount that the Federal government is entitled to  
16       recover under paragraph (1) shall be paid to the  
17       United States not later than 3 years after the date  
18       the United States becomes so entitled.

19              (5) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts recovered under  
20       paragraph (1) shall be available to the Secretary for  
21       making loan repayments under this section and shall  
22       remain available for such purpose until expended.

23              (6) REGULATIONS.—Prior to implementation of  
24       the Wildlife and Zoological Veterinary Workforce  
25       Scholarship Program, the Secretary shall establish,

1 by regulation, procedures for determining the  
2 amount of the repayment required under paragraph  
3 (1).

4 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
5 authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 for each of fis-  
6 cal years 2010 through 2014 to carry out this section.

7 **TITLE II—WILDLIFE AND ZOO-**  
8 **LOGICAL VETERINARY MEDI-**  
9 **CINE EDUCATIONAL DEVEL-**  
10 **OPMENT**

11 **SEC. 201. GRANTS TO ACCREDITED SCHOOLS AND COL-**  
12 **LEGES OF VETERINARY MEDICINE FOR CUR-**  
13 **RICULA IN WILDLIFE AND ZOOLOGICAL VET-**  
14 **ERINARY MEDICINE.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after  
16 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-  
17 tablish a pilot program to award grants to accredited  
18 schools and colleges of veterinary medicine to develop new  
19 or existing curricula that specialize in wildlife or zoological  
20 veterinary medicine, to be available to veterinary students  
21 in the final years of a program for which the accredited  
22 schools or colleges of veterinary medicine award a doctoral  
23 degree in veterinary medicine.

1 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under  
2 this section, an accredited school or college of veterinary  
3 medicine shall submit to the Secretary a proposal—

4 (1) at such time and in such form and manner  
5 as the Secretary may require; and

6 (2) containing such information as the Sec-  
7 retary may require, including a description of—

8 (A) the proposed curriculum in wildlife or  
9 zoological veterinary medicine under subsection  
10 (a); and

11 (B) how the accredited school or college of  
12 veterinary medicine will use funds provided  
13 under the grant.

14 (c) AWARD.—The Secretary shall establish proce-  
15 dures to ensure that proposals are rigorously reviewed and  
16 that grants are competitively awarded.

17 (d) AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall determine the  
18 amount of a grant awarded to an accredited school or col-  
19 lege of veterinary medicine under this section, taking into  
20 account such factors as the Secretary considers appro-  
21 priate, including—

22 (1) the contents of the proposal submitted by  
23 the eligible accredited school or college of veterinary  
24 medicine under subsection (b); and

1           (2) the number of grants available to all accred-  
2           ited schools or colleges of veterinary medicine.

3           (e) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Amounts received  
4           under a grant under this section shall be used to pay ex-  
5           penses related to the curriculum described in subsection  
6           (b)(2)(A) that are determined by the Secretary to be ap-  
7           propriate, including the expense of—

8           (1) developing the curriculum;

9           (2) paying for the costs associated with the de-  
10          velopment of the curriculum, including faculty sala-  
11          ries and the costs of acquisition of material and  
12          equipment; and

13          (3) providing the curriculum.

14          (f) REPORTS.—

15          (1) GRANTEES.—At the end of each calendar  
16          year, each school that has received a grant under  
17          this section for such year shall submit to the Sec-  
18          retary a report, in such form and manner and con-  
19          taining such information as the Secretary may re-  
20          quire, on the effectiveness of the curriculum devel-  
21          oped by the school.

22          (2) SECRETARY.—Not later than 6 months  
23          after completion of the pilot program established  
24          under subsection (a), the Secretary shall evaluate  
25          the curriculum developed by each school that has re-

1       ceived a grant under this section and submit to Con-  
2       gress a report on the pilot program—

3               (A) in such form and manner as Congress  
4       may require; and

5               (B) containing such information as Con-  
6       gress may require, including—

7                   (i) the names of the accredited schools  
8       and colleges of veterinary medicine that re-  
9       ceived a grant under this section;

10                  (ii) the number of students enrolled in  
11       each curriculum developed with grant  
12       funds;

13                  (iii) a description of each curriculum  
14       developed with grant funds;

15                  (iv) an assessment of the effectiveness  
16       of the pilot program; and

17                  (v) the recommendations of the Sec-  
18       retary regarding the extension or expan-  
19       sion of the pilot program.

20       (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
21       authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year  
22       2010, and such sums as may be necessary for each subse-  
23       quent fiscal year, for grants under this section. Amounts  
24       appropriated under this subsection are authorized to re-  
25       main available until expended.

1 **SEC. 202. GRANTS TO DEVELOP TRAINING PROGRAMS IN**  
2 **WILDLIFE AND ZOOLOGICAL VETERINARY**  
3 **MEDICINE.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall award com-  
5 petitive grants to eligible wildlife or veterinary institutions  
6 to establish or expand, for traineeship candidates, training  
7 programs in veterinary medicine for wildlife or zoological  
8 populations referred to in subsection (e).

9 (b) **ELIGIBLE WILDLIFE OR VETERINARY INSTITU-**  
10 **TION.**—To be eligible for a grant under this section, a  
11 wildlife or veterinary institution shall submit to the Sec-  
12 retary a proposal designed to create or expand one or more  
13 training programs for traineeship candidates. The pro-  
14 posal—

15 (1) shall be submitted at such time and in such  
16 form and manner as the Secretary may require; and

17 (2) shall contain such information as the Sec-  
18 retary may require, including a description of—

19 (A) each training program to be created or  
20 expanded;

21 (B) the skills to be imparted by each train-  
22 ing program;

23 (C) how the wildlife or veterinary institu-  
24 tion will use the funds provided under a grant;  
25 and

1           (D) how each training program will help a  
2           trainee advance conservation and management  
3           goals for wildlife or zoological animal popu-  
4           lations.

5           (c) CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS.—

6           (1) PREFERENCE.—In awarding a grant under  
7           this section, the Secretary shall give preference to an  
8           eligible wildlife or veterinary institution offering a  
9           training program—

10           (A) at rotating sites, particularly in the  
11           case of a residency program under subsection  
12           (e)(5); and

13           (B) under which trainees conduct research  
14           and teach veterinary students.

15           (2) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall estab-  
16           lish procedures to ensure that proposals are rigor-  
17           ously reviewed and that grants are competitively  
18           awarded.

19           (d) TRAINEESHIP CANDIDATE.—For purposes of this  
20           section, an individual shall be treated as a traineeship can-  
21           didate if the individual—

22           (1) is a citizen of the United States, a national,  
23           or a lawful permanent resident;

1           (2) expresses a profound interest in wildlife or  
2           zoological veterinary medicine and a commitment to  
3           becoming a wildlife or zoological veterinarian; and

4           (3) has submitted to a wildlife or veterinary in-  
5           stitution offering a training program under sub-  
6           section (a) an application for the training program  
7           containing such information as may be required by  
8           the wildlife or veterinary institution.

9           (e) TYPES OF TRAINING PROGRAM.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—A training program referred  
11           to in this subsection is—

12                   (A) an externship program under para-  
13                   graph (2);

14                   (B) an internship program under para-  
15                   graph (3);

16                   (C) a fellowship program under paragraph  
17                   (4); or

18                   (D) a residency program under paragraph  
19                   (5).

20           (2) EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM.—

21                   (A) IN GENERAL.—Under an externship  
22                   program, a trainee shall be exposed to all facets  
23                   of veterinary medicine applied to wildlife or zoo-  
24                   logical populations.

1 (B) ELIGIBILITY.—Externships shall be  
2 awarded to traineeship candidates who are—

3 (i) enrolled in a program at an ac-  
4 credited school or college of veterinary  
5 medicine leading to a doctoral degree in  
6 veterinary medicine; and

7 (ii) in their final 2 years of study.

8 (C) DURATION.—An externship shall be  
9 for a period of no fewer than three weeks and  
10 no more than 16 weeks.

11 (3) INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Under an internship  
13 program, a trainee shall be provided with broad,  
14 well-balanced exposure to wildlife or zoological  
15 veterinary medicine.

16 (B) ELIGIBILITY.—Internships shall be  
17 awarded to traineeship candidates who hold a  
18 doctoral degree in veterinary medicine.

19 (C) DURATION.—An internship shall be for  
20 a period of 1 year.

21 (4) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Under a fellowship pro-  
23 gram, a trainee shall be provided with training  
24 in one specific area of wildlife or zoological vet-  
25 erinary medicine.

1 (B) ELIGIBILITY.—Fellowships shall be  
2 awarded to traineeship candidates who hold a  
3 doctoral degree in veterinary medicine.

4 (C) DURATION.—A fellowship program  
5 shall be for a period of 1 through 3 years.

6 (5) RESIDENCY PROGRAM.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Under a residency pro-  
8 gram, a trainee shall be provided with training  
9 to develop specialized clinical competency with  
10 wildlife and zoological populations. Such pro-  
11 gram may assist residents in becoming wildlife  
12 or zoological veterinarians certified by the  
13 American College of Zoological Medicine  
14 (“ACZM”) or American College of Veterinary  
15 Pathologists (“ACVP”).

16 (B) ELIGIBILITY.—Residency programs  
17 shall be awarded to traineeship candidates who  
18 hold a doctoral degree in veterinary medicine.

19 (C) DURATION.—A residency program  
20 shall be for a period of no fewer than 2 years.

21 (f) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER TRAINING PRO-  
22 GRAM.—Under a training program, a trainee shall, for the  
23 duration of the training program, be provided with—

1           (1) a stipend, in an amount based on criteria  
2 to be determined by the wildlife or veterinary insti-  
3 tution, including—

4                   (A) the type and length of the training  
5 program;

6                   (B) the responsibilities assigned to the  
7 trainee as part of the training program;

8                   (C) the academic level or degree held by  
9 the trainee; and

10                  (D) the relevant experience of the trainee;

11 and

12           (2) such other financial assistance as the wild-  
13 life or veterinary institution determines necessary  
14 and is approved by the Secretary.

15           (g) APPROVAL OF PLACEMENT UNDER TRAINING  
16 PROGRAM.—

17                   (1) IN GENERAL.—No traineeship candidate  
18 shall be placed in a training program without the  
19 approval of the Secretary.

20                   (2) NOTICE.—A traineeship candidate shall be  
21 informed of placement in a training program upon  
22 approval by the Secretary.

23           (h) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The Secretary shall deter-  
24 mine the amount of a grant awarded under this section

1 for a training program, taking into account such factors  
2 as the Secretary considers appropriate, including—

3           (1) the type of training that the wildlife or vet-  
4           erinary institution desires to create or expand;

5           (2) the contents of the proposal submitted by  
6           the wildlife or veterinary institution under subsection  
7           (b); and

8           (3) the number of grants available to all wildlife  
9           or veterinary institutions.

10          (i) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—Under this section,  
11 amounts received under a grant shall be applied to such  
12 costs as the Secretary considers appropriate for the plan-  
13 ning, development, and operation of the training program,  
14 including the costs associated with—

15           (1) the development of the curriculum to be  
16           used in the program;

17           (2) practicum experiences;

18           (3) the acquisition of new equipment; and

19           (4) the stipend and other financial assistance  
20           provided to the trainee under subsection (f).

21          (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
22 authorized to be appropriated for grants under this section  
23 \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such sums as may  
24 be necessary for each subsequent fiscal year. Amounts ap-

- 1 appropriated pursuant to the authorization under this sub-
- 2 section shall remain available until expended.

○