



Oregon Veterinary Medical Association

**House Bill 3342
Support**

March 18, 2015

Dear Chair Rayfield and Committee Members:

The average debt load of a graduating veterinary student is approaching \$180,000. Yet the starting salary for a graduate is far less than cohorts in a comparable health profession.

As one example, a new board member for our organization graduated from Oregon State University's veterinary program in 2013. Her student debt load is approximately \$170,000 and her salary falls below \$60,000 – which is close to the prevailing starting wage. This veterinarian's monthly loan payment for her education is more than \$1,000. Allowing her – and others like her – to subtract an additional amount as interest on her student loan would be greatly helpful.

We ask for your support of HB 3342. Thank you for your consideration.

Glenn

Glenn M. Kolb
Executive Director



Oregon Veterinary Medical Association

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