

Oregon Veterinary  Medical Association

**House Bill 3342  
(Support)**

**May 18, 2015**

Dear Chair Barnhart, Vice Chair Bentz, Vice Chair Pederson, 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