



*Interim Health Services Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 8, 2014*

APPENDIX T

Good Afternoon Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nancy Kopp. I serve as the Executive Secretary of the North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association.

The NDVMA represents 211 of 250, practicing veterinarians in North Dakota.

Your Committee has asked that a representative of the North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association provide a summary of a most recent internal workforce study conducted amongst the NDVMA members. Following is a summary provided by NDVMA President Dr. Neil Dyer:

"I would say that the shortage perception is twofold – in some areas in the west there is a perceived shortage by producers, because they can't get a vet when they want one. To many practitioners this is untenable, because there is not enough work in those western counties to support a full-time vet. Many practices feel that some of their services are underused, but this is not a shortage problem. This is more of a marketing problem for the clinics. I don't think North Dakota has a shortage of veterinarians – but it does have some areas of the state, particularly the western counties, that struggle to keep a full-time veterinarian available because of animal numbers."

NDVMA Survey Results

- *50 clinics responded – 56% of these were 1 or 2 vet practices; 36% were 3 or 4 vet practices and 4% were 7 to 10 vets*
- *92 full-time vets and 12 part-time vets*
- *Underserved services receiving multiple mentions included equine dentistry, ultrasound, laser, chiropractic, acupuncture, and nutrition*
- *53% of the respondents were between 20 and 40 years of age; 76% of the respondents were within 20 and 50 years of age; 16% were 50 to 60 and 9% were over 60*
- *Of 37 clinics characterizing their activity, 22 were primarily companion animal, 13 were primarily food animal and 14 were mixed*
- *17 of the 50 clinics do not travel, the rest traveled anywhere from 40 to 300 miles*
- *16 of 50 did consulting of some type*
- *48 of 50 felt there was opportunity for growth and there was frequent mention of adding associates, sometimes multiple*
- *28 of 50 were interested in added an associate in the near future*
- *18 of 50 had plans to sell their practice, 29 did not and 4 were undecided*
- *Of the new grads that responded (15) only 1 reported having trouble finding a position in North Dakota.*

Graduates return to ND

2008 – 10 grads – 4 returned – 40%

2009 - 10 grads – 2 returned – 20%

2010 – 10 grads – 4 returned – 40%

2011 – 11 grads – 5 returned – 45%

2012 - 13 grads – 3 returned – 23%

2013 – 11 grads – 5 returned – 45%

65 23 returned 35%

I also shared the results of the survey with Brenda Zastoupil, so some of these statistics will appear in the University System's Report.

Second, the Committee requested information on national standards for the number of veterinarians. The only national standard I could locate at this time, is from the American Veterinary Medical Association, that quotes the need for veterinarians per 100,000 population in 1998 as 29.21, 2013 as 32.15 and 2025 as 22.32. Studies have not been conducted, to my knowledge as to an adequate number of veterinarians to provide service based on number of animals in North Dakota vs. residents.

Third, the Committee has requested information on the distribution of veterinarians in North Dakota. I have provided you with a Geographical Practice Distribution. This information is based on our knowledge of locations of NDVMA members and non-members, as well as broken down on type of practice.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have, or provide any additional information to follow-up on any concerns you may have.

