

**To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Senator Dan Kerschen, Chairman**

**From: John Donley, Kansas Farm Bureau**

**Date: February 7, 2018**

**Re: Written Testimony in support of SB 320- concerning animal care**

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Chairman Kerschen and members of the Committee, on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments today in support of SB 320. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau associations.

It has become increasingly difficult to attract replacements for retiring veterinarians and to adequately cover the need for veterinarian services in rural Kansas. The Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas (VTPRK) is designed to incentivize veterinarian students with a training program and student loan forgiveness in exchange for their practicing veterinary medicine in rural Kansas communities upon graduation.

KFB policy "supports the expansion of the Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas (VTPRK)". SB 320 proposes to expand this program by allowing the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University to offer VTPRK agreements from the current cap of 5 students to 20 students per year. This investment made in Kansas veterinarian students will be recouped many times over and provide much needed veterinarian care for rural Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and we hope you will vote to favorably pass out SB 320.