

AVMA



American Veterinary Medical Association

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June 12, 2007

Raymond P. Pepe, UEVHP Drafting Committee Chair
National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws
211 E. Ontario Street, Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60611

Re: Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act

Dear Mr. Pepe:

I am writing on behalf of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), established in 1863, and the largest veterinary medical association in the world. As a not-for-profit association established to advance the science and art of veterinary medicine, AVMA is the recognized national voice for the veterinary profession. The association's more than 75,000 members represent approximately 86% of U.S. veterinarians, all of whom are involved in myriad areas of veterinary medical practice including private, corporate, academic, industrial, governmental, military, and public health services.

We recognize that the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL) provides states with Uniform or Model Acts to promote enactment of uniform state laws in areas where uniformity is desirable and practical. Legislatures are encouraged to adopt Uniform Acts exactly as written. Model Acts are designed to serve as guideline legislation, which states can adapt to suit their needs.

The AVMA commends the NCCUSL for its work on the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act, including reserved sections 11 and 12 addressing civil liability and workers compensation coverage. The Act was passed by NCCUSL in July 2006 and the reserved sections will be acted upon in July 2007.

AVMA policy encourages interstate recognition of those licenses issued to veterinarians, and credentials issued to veterinary technicians, who officially respond to state-declared emergencies. We applaud that the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act allows state governments during a declared emergency to give reciprocity to other states' licensees on emergency services providers so that covered individuals may provide services without meeting the disaster state's licensing requirements.

AVMA policy also encourages affected states to provide liability and workers compensation insurance for veterinarians and veterinary technicians who officially respond to provide veterinary services during state-declared emergencies. Such protections are critical to an effective system of legislation to promote the use of volunteer health practitioners and we strongly encourage NCCUSL to provide these protections in the reserved sections.

Please contact Dr. Elizabeth Curry-Galvin, Director, Scientific Activities with any questions or comments. She can be reached at 847-925-8070, extension 6633 or egalvin@avma.org.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Cordially,

Bruce W. Little, DVM
Executive Vice President
BWL/EOG

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