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Proponent Testimony Re: HB 2605 relating to the Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas

I am a 2014 graduate of Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine and a Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas scholar. I am currently serving several rural counties in extreme Southwestern Kansas through my veterinary practice that serves beef and dairy farms. For reference, I have just under 50,000 milking cows, 24,000 dairy heifers, 150,000 feeder calves, and 1,500 beef cows under my care at any one time at the farms I work with. Production agriculture and ensuring a safe and wholesome food supply has been a passion of mine and is an industry I am proud to be working with on a daily basis. Since 2014, I have resided in Johnson City and practiced in Stanton, Haskell, Grant, Kearny, Stevens, Morton, Hamilton and Seward counties.

My VTPRK scholarship is a big reason that I was able to focus on growth and creating a sustainable practice model that aligns well with my professional goals. I am happily raising my family in our small community where we own and operate several small businesses, I serve on the City Council and Golf Board, we have put down our roots and are planning for a future here. With the shortage of veterinarians willing to practice in rural areas of Kansas, there is not a shortage of alternative career paths for veterinarians like myself. I believe I have served as a wonderful example of what the VTPRK program can accomplish for rural Kansas and hope that you will give it your utmost support with people like myself in mind.