

**RESOLUTION #7—2023
Regular Winter Session**

Submitted by
Board of Directors

REVISED POLICY ON THE IMPORTANCE OF VETERINARIANS IN FOOD SAFETY

RESOLVED that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates adopt the revised policy on The Importance of Veterinarians in Food Safety (additions are underlined; deletions are ~~struck through~~):

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) supports the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service Public Health Veterinary workforce hiring efforts by recommending that FSIS implement the three actions below to resolve the recruiting and retention issues when hiring veterinarians in FSIS:

1. All slaughter plants must be under the direct supervision of a Supervisory Public Health Veterinarian (SPHV); Federal veterinarians, as animal and public health professionals, are uniquely equipped to lead the inspection and food safety processes necessary to protect Americans' food source;
2. Remuneration and incentives of SPHVs must be immediately improved to be commensurate with their extensive education and expertise and to be competitive with the private sector;
3. Administrative time and support for annual professional continuing education and training are essential to retaining SPHVs. Added management and leadership training, particularly upon entry into the SPHV position, would add tools to improve the supervisory success, job satisfaction, and retention of SPHVs.

Statement about the Resolution

The policy titled Importance of Veterinarians in Food Safety was passed by the House of Delegates during its 2017 Regular Annual Session ([Attachment 1](#)). The policy was recently reviewed by the Legislative Advisory Committee, which subsequently recommended adding management and leadership training to the policy to help improve the supervisory success, job satisfaction, and retention of SPHVs.

Financial Impact: None

	Board of Directors	House Advisory Committee	Reference Committee #5	House of Delegates
Recommend Approval	X	X	X (amended as noted below*)	X (amended as noted below*)
Recommend Disapproval				
Recommend Referral to...				
No Recommendation				
Recommend Postpone Indefinitely				

(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)

***Revised Policy on the Importance of Veterinarians in Food Safety**

- 1 – Strike “when hiring” and replace it with the word “for” to the last sentence in the first paragraph.
- 2 – Strike “SPHVs” and replace it with the word “veterinarians” and strike the word “immediately” in Item #2.
- 3 – Strike “SPHVs” and replace it with the word “veterinarians” in the first sentence of Item #3.