



April 20, 2026

The Honorable GT Thompson  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1301 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
1010 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Craig:

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is the nation's leading representative of the veterinary profession, speaking for more than 111,000 veterinarians nationwide. Informed by its members' unique scientific training and knowledge, the AVMA offers strong support for Section 12006 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, which protects veterinarians' freedom and flexibility to provide the best care for farm animals.

In a 2018 ballot initiative, California voters passed Prop 12, which prohibits sales of animal products in their state that do not comply with specific livestock housing requirements, whether those products are produced in California or elsewhere. Because no one husbandry style is appropriate for all circumstances, regulations aimed at improving animal welfare should be based upon scientific evidence and the professional judgement of veterinarians. The requirements in Prop 12 are not scientifically based and have not been objectively demonstrated to reliably and consistently improve animal welfare.

In addition, allowing one state to dictate husbandry requirements to other states not only interferes with interstate commerce, but opens the door for future governance of all states by an individual state. This kind of legislation will create a patchwork of regulations that are often not scientifically based, could impact biosecurity, and would be cost prohibitive and cumbersome for veterinarians and their producer clients to navigate. Ensuring good animal health and welfare requires a veterinarian to have the freedom and authority to recommend the best course of action for each unique situation.

Veterinarians have scientific training and expertise that allows them to provide the best possible care for animals living in a range of housing types. AVMA is opposed to Prop 12, which restricts veterinarians' flexibility to provide the best care possible based on animals' specific needs. We are grateful to the House Committee on Agriculture for the inclusion of Section 12006 in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, which provides a solution to Prop 12 and protects veterinarians' ability to maximize animal health and welfare.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet D. Donlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janet D. Donlin, DVM, CAE  
Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer