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Jackie McClaskey, Secretary

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**Testimony on SB 189
Senate Agriculture Committee
February 17, 2015**

**By Sarah Byrne, Executive Director
Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners**

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to present testimony in favor of SB 189.

The mission of the Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners (KBVE) is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public through the regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine in Kansas. It is the task of KBVE to ensure that Kansans seeking veterinary services receive quality and competent services from Kansas veterinarians. The KBVE licenses and regulates 2,714 veterinarians to ensure minimum standards of quality and competency are achieved. However, there is one segment of veterinarians practicing in this state that is currently exempt from licensing and oversight by the Board. That segment is comprised of veterinarians employed as faculty members, interns, and residents at Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM).

One method used by KBVE to ensure the required standard of quality and competency are maintained is to take remedial action against veterinarians the Board finds to have not provided the standard of care required by the Kansas Veterinary Practice Act or have otherwise violated the provisions of the Act. The Board can take these remedial steps because it has jurisdiction over the veterinarians it licenses. The Board has no authority or jurisdiction over non-licensed veterinarians, like those at the CVM.

The problem arises when the KBVE receives complaints alleging violations of the Practice Act by non-licensed veterinarians, practicing veterinary medicine through their employment at the CVM. In the last few years the KBVE has received complaints involving veterinarians at the College, however, under current law we have been unable to address those complaints.

Of the 27 states that have accredited schools of veterinary medicine, 12 states (including Kansas) exempt veterinarians employed by the schools from state licensure requirement. The other 15 states require either a regular veterinary license or some form of academic or faculty license. KBVE feels it is in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare to join those 15 states which require licensure for veterinarians employed by schools and colleges of veterinary medicine.

The KBVE and the Kansas Department of Agriculture ("KDA") worked closely with the KSU College of Veterinary Medicine in developing a bill that all stakeholders could agree to. This work was a joint effort, and all parties, including the CVM, KDA and KBVE strongly believe that this bill will benefit Kansas citizens and give the KBVE the oversight it needs to fulfill its mission.

I therefore encourage you to recommend favorably SB 189 for passage. Thank you for your time, I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.