

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

The Honorable Bob Ramsey, 428 Cordell Hull Building  
The Honorable Mike Bell, 730 Cordell Hull Building  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243  
Email: [rep.bob.ramsey@capitol.tn.gov](mailto:rep.bob.ramsey@capitol.tn.gov)  
Email: [sen.mike.bell@capitol.tn.gov](mailto:sen.mike.bell@capitol.tn.gov)

Dear Representative Ramsey and Senator Bell:

I write on behalf of the veterinary faculty and credentialed veterinary technicians associated with the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Medical Center.

The Veterinary Medical Center has, on staff, some 70 credentialed technicians who work side-by-side with veterinarians serving Tennessee. Many of our veterinary technicians have devoted their entire professional career to our Veterinary Medical Center, and all have been essential in ensuring the day-in, day-out delivery of necessary nursing care to countless numbers of animals, including both beloved pets and valuable livestock.

Our veterinary technicians are critical members of the veterinary healthcare team, essential to the delivery of quality medical and surgical care. Unfortunately, the general public does not fully understand the essential impact veterinary technicians provide in veterinary medical care, largely or perhaps entirely due to the confusing and inconsistent nomenclature tied to their professional title; titles which include registered veterinary technician (RVT), licensed veterinary technician (LVT), licensed veterinary medical technician (LVMT), and certified veterinary technician (CVT). Unifying these titles into a single designation of "registered veterinary nurse (RVN)" across all 50 states will immediately advance public understanding of the pivotal role played by these individuals. Everyone understands the essential role nurses play in human healthcare, and likewise everyone will immediately understand the responsibilities veterinary nurses carry in the practice of veterinary medicine.

For these reasons, the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine fully supports enacting House Bill 2288 and Senate Bill 2154. We unequivocally endorse these bills which will enhance the stature and public recognition of veterinary technicians, while boosting the public's appreciation for their value in the veterinary medical profession. The existing Tennessee title, licensed veterinary medical technician, can and should be changed to registered veterinary nurse.

Sincerely yours,



James P. Thompson, DVM, PhD  
Diplomate ACVIM and ACVM  
Dean and Professor

cc: Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Senate, Randy McNally  
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Beth Harwell  
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; Curtis Halford, Andy Holt, David Hawk,  
Bud Hulsey, Ron Lollar, Pat Marsh, Judd Matheny, Steve McDaniel, Bo Mitchell, Jay Reedy,  
Johnny Shaw, Rick Tillis, and John Mark Windle  
Senate Energy, Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; Steve Southerland, Frank Niceley,  
Mark Poddy, Steven Dickerson, Mark Green, Dolores Gresham, Lee Harris, Ken Yager