

From: Jonathan Musman [<mailto:jmusman@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2009 8:51 PM
To: Rep. Peggy Wilson
Cc: molly Steinberg
Subject: FW: Constituent Concern Regard Veterinary Licensing

Representative Peggy Wilson
202 Saint Michaels
Wrangell AK, 99929

Honorable Ms. Wilson,

I am an Active Duty Coast Guard Officer. I have been an Alaska resident since 1998 and purchased a cabin on Wrangell Narrows in 2003 while stationed in Juneau. I am currently registered to vote in Petersburg. In July I was reassigned to Homer, Alaska, where I will be stationed for the next three years.

I am writing you because of my fiancé's difficulty getting licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Alaska. My fiancé, Dr. Molly Steinberg, is a graduate of St. George's University in Grenada, she completed her clinical year at the University of Minnesota. She is a native of California and had planned on practicing in California. She completed the National Veterinary Boards and the Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE). The PAVE exam is administered by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards to ensure foreign graduates meet established standards. She is currently licensed in the states of New York and California. Alaska does not accept the PAVE exam. The exam Alaska uses is the Education Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG), it is administered by the American Veterinary Medical Association. From our research, it appears that for her to complete the exam and clinical requirements it will require at least 2 trips to one of the testing locations in the lower 48 states. The test itself costs a minimum of \$6,000, if all sections are passed the first time.

From the ECFVG website:

As of April 2009, 190 of the 456 candidates who initially registered in the program in 2006 have been awarded ECFVG certificates....Thirty-four of the 190 certificate holders who initially registered in 2006 (18%) completed the ECFVG program within 12 months of initial registration; 107 (56%) completed the program between 12 and 24 months of initial registration, and 49 (26%) completed the program between 25 and 36 months of initial registration.

The statistics above concern us due to the cost of multiple trips to the testing facility and the time from registration to obtaining a certificate. 28 states currently accept the PAVE exam process for foreign equivalency.

The State Board of Veterinary Examiners supports changing the language of AS 08.98.165.(a)(1) to accept both the PAVE program or the ECFVG. Recent Board meeting minutes clearly show the Board is supportive of accepting PAVE, but is waiting on legislation to be proposed. I request you propose this change at the beginning of the next legislative session, so my fiancé will be able to practice in Alaska.

If you have any questions on this subject please feel free to contact me at home (907) 235-0503 or on my cell phone at (907) 299-7598. There are a couple of links below to aid you or your staff in any research.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Musman

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<http://www.aavsb.org/PAVE/>

http://www.avma.org/education/ecfvg/about_us.asp