

Combating Illicit Xylazine Act
Joint Statement of Support (119th Congress)

We, the undersigned, urge Congress to pass the **Combating Illicit Xylazine Act** ([H.R. 1266](#)/ [S. 545](#)), to address the emerging threat of illicit xylazine while preserving access veterinarians and their clients need to the critically important animal drug. Illicit xylazine has increasingly been found across the country mixed with fentanyl and other narcotics. This potent drug combination poses grave human health and safety risks. In veterinary medicine, xylazine is an important prescription sedative used to facilitate the safe handling and treatment of many species and is particularly important for use in cattle, horses, wildlife, and research species. In cattle, there is no practical alternative for sedation.

During the previous Congress, versions of this legislation were marked-up by the House Energy & Commerce and Judiciary Committees then included in the House-passed SUPPORT Act reauthorization. After passing the House, the language was then updated with Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Department of Justice, and Health and Human Services technical assistance, as well as stakeholder input to reach agreement on the final text.

This bipartisan, bicameral bill is the result of over two years of productive conversations between congressional offices and committees, stakeholder groups, and federal agencies. The bill would schedule xylazine in Schedule III under the Controlled Substances Act and contains several statutory changes designed to preserve critical veterinary uses of the drug and keep it viable as a drug in the U.S. market, as well as provide the DEA with transparency into the market.

Passage of this legislation is needed now to avoid the unintended consequences of administrative scheduling by the DEA – a process that has already started. In addition, the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act is a federal solution that would alleviate the growing patchwork of state-by-state xylazine restrictions across the U.S. Only Congress can make the statutory changes necessary to help preserve the availability of this prescription animal drug for its critical uses in veterinary medicine as a controlled drug. Scheduling of xylazine by the DEA without these statutory changes will prohibit the common uses of this drug by veterinarians and their clients, as well as increase the risk of supply disruption or cause it to be lost from the marketplace. A supply disruption will have very serious, immediate, and long-term consequences on human safety and animal welfare.

The Food and Drug Administration and the DEA support this policy. Without Congress enacting this legislation, the DEA lacks the authority to make the necessary changes to the Controlled Substances Act that veterinarians, livestock producers, and researchers need to maintain access to xylazine and allow DEA transparency into the legitimate drug marketplace. We urge you to help protect public health, animal health, and animal welfare by swiftly passing the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

American Veterinary Medical Association
American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics
American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology
American Association of Bovine Practitioners
American Association of Equine Practitioners
American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners
American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians

American Association of Zoo Veterinarians
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Horse Council
Animal Health Institute
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Dairy Farmers of America
Meat Institute
National Milk Producers Federation
United States Animal Health Association
National Association for Biomedical Research
National Thoroughbred Racing Association

State Organizations

Alabama Veterinary Medical Association
Alaska State Veterinary Medical Association
Arizona Veterinary Medical Association
Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association
California Veterinary Medical Association
Colorado Veterinary Medical Association
Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association
Delaware Veterinary Medical Association
District of Columbia Veterinary Medical Association
Florida Veterinary Medical Association
Georgia Veterinary Medical Association
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association
Idaho Veterinary Medical Association
Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association
Indiana Veterinary Medical Association
Iowa Veterinary Medical Association
Kansas Veterinary Medical Association
Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association
Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association
Maine Veterinary Medical Association
Maryland Veterinary Medical Association
Massachusetts Veterinary Medical Association
Michigan Veterinary Medical Association
Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association
Mississippi Veterinary Medical Association
Missouri Veterinary Medical Association
Montana Veterinary Medical Association
Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association
Nevada Veterinary Medical Association
New Hampshire Veterinary Medical Association
New Jersey Veterinary Medical Association
New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association
New York State Veterinary Medical Society
North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association
North Dakota Veterinary Medical Association
Ohio Veterinary Medical Association
Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association
Oregon Veterinary Medical Association
Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association
Puerto Rico Veterinary Medical Association
Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association
South Carolina Association of Veterinarians
South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association
Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association
Texas Veterinary Medical Association
Utah Veterinary Medical Association
Vermont Veterinary Medical Association
Virginia Veterinary Medical Association
Washington State Veterinary Medical Association
West Virginia Veterinary Medical Association
Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association
Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association