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**Testimony on HB 2364**  
**House Agriculture and Natural Resources**  
**By Tera Barnhardt, DVM**  
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I am a 2014 graduate of Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine (KSU CVM) and a Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas (VTPRK) scholar. Out of respect for your time, I will share the three things that have made the biggest difference in my career as a rural mixed animal practitioner, although I can assure you there are hundreds more.

I took a job in Stanton County in the southwest corner of the state. Our practice area serves some of the most rural and remote counties in the state and I absolutely love it. 1) My education and professional development at KSU CVM was second to none. I was very well prepared for the real world and I know my boss and new clients would be in agreement. Especially looking at the exposure to food animal and production medicine, we are at an advantage because of the education we received. 2) My VTPRK scholarship is one of the main reasons my family moved to a rural area. Had I accrued the average and often debilitating debt that veterinary students commonly do, my family would've needed to stay in a more populated area in order for my husband's construction company to remain optimally profitable. With this scholarship came flexibility and the ability for us to move to a small town where we want to raise our kids and build our lives. 3) My VTPRK scholarship allowed me to become a more involved community member in a small town in just 6 months. We bought a house. We joined a church. I plan on running for school board. We are a young couple, who moved into a small community and made it our home. I was able to take the stress of student debt out of the picture and get my boots on the ground in this new town.

I know your budget is already strapped. I know your plates are full. Take it from the veterinarian out here in the trenches of rural Kansas, your consideration is needed on the very important topic. Your money was well spent in the Class of 2014 at KSU CVM and it will be well spent for the years to come. I support the VTPRK without reservation because it changed my life and I want it to continue being available for Kansas veterinarians in the future.