

**Veterinary Support for S.741  
An Act to Prevent Farm Animal Cruelty**

Dear Massachusetts Legislator:

We, the undersigned Massachusetts licensed veterinarians, are joining with the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association to convey our strong support for S.741, an act to prevent farm animal cruelty. This legislation would prohibit the extreme confinement of veal calves and pregnant pigs in crates.

There is ample scientific evidence to support prohibiting restrictive animal crating systems. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has concluded that calves must be able to at least comfortably turn around and assume normal postures. And the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production, a panel of experts which included a former US Secretary of Agriculture and a former veterinary school dean and which was supported by the John Hopkins School of Public Health, concluded that most intensive confinement systems used in animal agribusiness constitute “inhumane treatment” and recommended against “all systems that restrict natural movement,” including gestation crates.

Nine other states have already passed similar laws and 89 percent of Massachusetts voters polled said they would support legislation to prohibit such intensive agricultural confinement systems. In addition to our veterinary support, the bill is supported by a broad coalition of animal health, welfare, agriculture and environmental organizations, including the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA), the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), The Humane League, Farm Forward, the Massachusetts Sierra Club and 40 Massachusetts farms.

We strongly encourage your passage of this common-sense farm animal protection reform.

**Signed by the following 216 Massachusetts veterinarians:**

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