

AAVSB 2025 AMC - Resolution 2025-1

**A Resolution Opposing the AAVSB Proposal
to Expand Membership to Jurisdictions Around the Globe**

PASSED
26 YAY / 20 NAY
/ 0 Abstentions

WHEREAS, the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) is an association of veterinary medicine regulatory boards whose membership includes licensing bodies in 63 jurisdictions, including all of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the ten Canadian provinces;

WHEREAS, the AAVSB's mission is to support and advance the regulation of veterinary medicine and the AAVSB values protection of the public, reliability & accuracy, ethics & integrity; service excellence; active inclusion, participation, & collaboration; and stewardship of resources;

WHEREAS, AAVSB's strength and credibility rest in its ability to provide effective services and resources to its current Member Board jurisdictions, primarily located within the United States and Canada;

WHEREAS, the AAVSB elected leadership recommended, at the 2024 Annual Meeting and the 2025 Executive Directors and Registrars Summit, that the AAVSB open its membership to a global audience of jurisdictions around the world;

WHEREAS, the AAVSB is presently not fully responsive to the repeated requests from Member Boards to provide the level of support necessary to properly and effectively administer its portfolio of current programs and services;

WHEREAS, the appropriate administration of program standards is essential to ensure that Member Board jurisdictions have the confidence in the AAVSB's offerings so that they may strategically plan, seek, and execute appropriate legislative changes;

WHEREAS, the AAVSB does not adequately serve its existing Member Board jurisdictions, particularly those in Canada, due to limitations in infrastructure and jurisdiction-specific regulatory differences;

WHEREAS, the proposed evolution of the association to allow for global membership from jurisdictions around the world would substantially expand the organization's scope, responsibilities, and demands without adequate evaluation of the impact on existing operations;

WHEREAS, responsible governance requires ensuring that the organization's current obligations are fully met before expanding its membership base;

WHEREAS, the AAVSB's staff has made this recommendation without polling the current Member Board jurisdictions and without sufficient consideration of the manifold issues;

WHEREAS, any modification to the AAVSB membership composition or change to the name of the association requires a proposed change to the association's bylaws in accordance with those bylaws and a supporting vote by membership to ratify such proposed changes;

WHEREAS, no such changes to the bylaws have been proposed to the association Membership; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAVSB shall **not** expand membership beyond North America;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AAVSB shall instead prioritize strengthening its capacity to meet the needs of its existing Member Board jurisdictions with the current programs and services offerings and shall report to the Member Board jurisdictions a strategy for making these improvements with definitive deadlines and means to measure such improvement;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AAVSB shall prioritize the Association's support of its Canadian members on par with U.S. jurisdictions;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AAVSB shall establish a formal study group or task force to evaluate the feasibility, benefits, and challenges of expanding the scope of membership to international jurisdictions, with specific attention to regulatory compatibility, resource allocation, member support systems, and long-term strategic impact;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any formal study group or task force shall be composed of a majority of seated board members on Member Board jurisdictions or executive directors or registrars from Member Boards, and from a representative selection across the U.S. and Canada; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that any future consideration of global membership shall be guided by the findings of such a study, reported to the Member Board jurisdictions, and be implemented only after AAVSB has demonstrably fulfilled its existing commitments to current Members and in accordance with the existing association bylaws.