ISVMA Legislative Tool Kit Letter of Introduction-Clinic

**[Clinic/Business Letterhead]**

The Honorable FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

ADDRESS

Dear OFFICIAL TITLE; LASTNAME (IF ACQUAINTED, USE PREFERRED NAME)

As a local small business owner and member of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA), thank you for your willingness to serve LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT as our elected leader at the Capitol in Springfield.

I am a local veterinarian; NAME OF CLINIC/BUSINESS operating in TOWN NAME, and have served this community for XX years. I employ XX veterinary medical professionals and administrative staff, all dedicated to ensuring the health and well-being of beloved pets with the most humane care possible. My clinic’s team members also live in our area.

While my work is focused in our community, there are many employed like me (more than 1,900 professional ISVMA members across Illinois) representing considerable veterinary medical services provided throughout rural communities and major metropolitan areas. As professionals, we offer this essential help for creatures both great and small, furred, feathered, finned and hooved.

Academic preparation for this profession usually takes four years to earn a bachelor’s degree and four years of post-graduate studies to earn a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. Graduates must pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) and all Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) requirements prior to practicing. State law also necessitates veterinarians to enroll in 40 hours of continued medical training education on a biennial basis. In fact, veterinarians are required to understand many different types of animals and their physiology to be able to properly diagnose and treat them to provide the highest level of compassionate care, whether the animals live indoors or in outdoor environments.

When you consider services and related industries in Illinois that involve our profession, like animal science and research, production of pet pharmaceuticals, food processing/growth of livestock, public health, as well as supportive professional services (insurance, clinic medical tools and supplies, third-party clinic-related services, etc.), the network of affiliated and affected businesses partnered with this profession expands greatly.

The ISVMA represents me and my position on animal-related issues I consider helpful or harmful to my profession, its clients or suppliers when under consideration at the Capitol in Springfield. It makes sure the measure deserves attention for the betterment and integrity of the veterinary profession and for the animals and people I serve. When this happens, I will be in touch with you to discuss this position and how it could affect my business in our communities and the state so that you can make a well-informed decision on the issue.

These are the aspects I wanted to bring to your attention about my veterinary business and the ISVMA. Of course, there are more details that could be better shared with you in conversation. It would be my hope to visit with you soon to discuss veterinary medicine in your district and to answer questions you may have about my profession. I will reach out to you soon to make an appointment.

Thank you, and I look forward to our future discussions about how veterinary medicine is a vital aspect of our community, region and the entire state of Illinois.

Sincerely,

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

ISVMA Legislative Tool Kit Letter of Introduction-Farm/Field Service

**[Clinic/Business Letterhead]**

The Honorable FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

ADDRESS

Dear OFFICIAL TITLE; LASTNAME (IF ACQUAINTED, USE PREFERRED NAME)

As a local small business owner and member of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA), I thank you for your willingness to serve LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT as our elected leader at the Capitol in Springfield.

As a local veterinarian, my business, NAME OF BUSINESS, and medical services I provide focus on the health and welfare of large animals and livestock, having provided TYPES OF SERVICES for more than XX years in the greater TOWN/AREA NAME. As you can imagine, these services are in great demand and are an integral part of doing business in our area.

While my work is focused in our community, there are many employed like me (more than 1,900 professional ISVMA members across Illinois) representing considerable veterinary medical services provided throughout rural communities and major metropolitan areas. As professionals, we offer this essential help for creatures both great and small, furred, feathered, finned and hooved.

Academic preparation for this profession usually takes four years to earn a bachelor’s degree and four years of post-graduate studies to earn a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. Graduates must pass the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination and all Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation requirements prior to practicing. State law also necessitates veterinarians to enroll in 40 hours of continued medical training education on a biennial basis. In fact, veterinarians are required to understand many different types of animals and their physiology to be able to properly diagnose and treat them to provide the highest level of compassionate care, whether the animals live indoors or in outdoor environments.

When you consider services and related industries in Illinois that involve our profession, like animal science and research, production of pet pharmaceuticals, food processing/growth of livestock, public health, as well as supportive professional services (insurance, clinic medical tools and supplies, third-party clinic-related services, etc.), the network of affiliated and affected businesses partnered with this profession expands greatly.

The ISVMA represents me and my position on animal-related issues I consider helpful or harmful to my profession, its clients or suppliers when under consideration at the Capitol in Springfield. It makes sure the measure deserves attention for the betterment and integrity of the veterinary profession and for the animals and people I serve. When this happens, I will be in touch with you to discuss this position and how it could affect my business in our communities and the state so that you can make a well-informed decision on the issue.

These are just several aspects I wanted to bring to your attention about my veterinary business and the ISVMA. Of course, there are more details that could be better shared with you in conversation. It would be my hope to visit with you soon to discuss veterinary medicine in your district and to answer questions you may have about my profession. I will reach out to you soon the make an appointment.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to our future discussions about how veterinary medicine is a vital aspect of our community, region and the entire state of Illinois.

Sincerely,

NAME

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EMAIL ADDRESS