

January 15, 2024

Senator Robert Stivers, President of the Senate  
Kentucky General Assembly  
700 Capital Avenue  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Representative David Osborne, Speaker of the House  
Kentucky General Assembly  
700 Capital Avenue  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear President Stivers and Speaker Osborne,

On behalf of Starlight Racing, I am submitting this letter in full support of Murray State University (MSU) in its effort to obtain approval and funding for a School of Veterinary Medicine during the 2024 Legislative Session.

As both the founder and managing partner of Starlight Racing and a proud Murray State University alumnus, this project is very important to me. For over fifty years, Murray State University has tried to establish a School of Veterinary Medicine. Meanwhile, the need for large animal veterinarians has increased dramatically year after year.


Recently, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) identified 86 out of 120 counties in Kentucky as currently experiencing a tremendous veterinarian shortage. Data from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has also shown that from 2013-2022, there has been a 23% decrease in practicing large animal veterinarians nationwide – yet our need for large animal veterinarians in the thoroughbred industry has only continued to increase. One obvious solution to this crisis is for our state to finally begin educating Kentucky students with our own in-state School of Veterinary Medicine.

With the MSU Breathitt Veterinary Center – a veterinary diagnostic laboratory in Christian County with the highest safety designation in Kentucky by the USDA – as well as having the largest enrollment of Pre-Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Technology students in the state, along with MSU's longstanding tradition of excellence in animal agriculture make Murray State University the ideal place to locate our state's veterinary school.

I urge the General Assembly to please take up this important issue and establish and fund a School of Veterinary Medicine at Murray State University.

Thank you for your leadership in our state and for your continued support of both Murray State University and the thoroughbred industry.

Sincerely,

  
Jack Wolf, Founder/Managing Partner  
Starlight Racing