



Dr. Robert L. Jackson
President
Murray State University
102 Curris Center
Murray, KY 42071

Dear Dr. Jackson,

I am pleased to offer my support for the proposal to establish a veterinary medicine doctorate program at Murray State University. Addressing Kentucky's ongoing veterinary shortage is critical to ensuring the health of our livestock, the strength of our agricultural industry, and the well-being of rural communities across the Commonwealth.

Kentucky's agriculture sector depends on a reliable network of veterinary professionals, yet we continue to face challenges in meeting the demand, particularly in large-animal and rural veterinary care. By expanding in-state opportunities for veterinary education, Murray State University can play a vital role in developing a skilled workforce uniquely equipped to serve Kentucky's needs. This program represents a significant step forward in building a sustainable pipeline of veterinarians who understand and are prepared to support the state's agricultural landscape.

I will continue to support initiatives that strengthen our agricultural infrastructure and provide essential resources to our farmers and animal owners. Investing in veterinary education is an investment in the future of Kentucky agriculture, ensuring that those who work tirelessly to feed, clothe, and support our communities have access to the care and expertise they rely on.

I appreciate the leadership of Murray State University in taking on this critical issue, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact this program will have on the future of veterinary medicine in Kentucky.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, written in a cursive style, that reads "Jonathan Shell". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name being particularly prominent.

Jonathan Shell

Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Agriculture