



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

March 11, 2026

The Honorable James Comer
United States House of Representatives
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Comer:

We extend our sincere gratitude for your continued support of Murray State University and for your commitment to advancing educational opportunities in our region. Your leadership and dedication to strengthening higher education and workforce development have a meaningful impact on our students and community. We are grateful for your partnership as we continue to expand opportunities for experiential learning, research, and professional training that prepare our students to serve the needs of Kentucky and beyond.

Please accept this attached application for the Fiscal Year 2027 Community Project Funding Request to be utilized towards the construction of an Emergency Veterinary and Teaching Clinic with Murray State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. The clinic is an important initiative that will serve many individuals and animals within the region and surrounding states. It will also support the work of the veterinary school and further strengthen our Mission Statement:

“The mission of the College of Veterinary Medicine is to educate professionals who will become leaders in advancing animal and human health through relationships established with those in our region and beyond. We recognize there is a great need for rural and regional practicing veterinarians. Therefore, our mission is to focus on serving underserved regions, whether that may be within Kentucky or nationally, by recruiting students who desire to work in these areas upon graduation.”

By establishing an Emergency Veterinary and Teaching Clinic, we will help meet a need that is lacking in this region, while also fulfilling one of the goals of the College of Veterinary Medicine – recruiting and teaching students in veterinarian practices. The Clinic will provide opportunities to help educate Murray State University's veterinary students and undergraduate veterinary technology and pre-veterinary medicine students, while establishing relationships with those in our area and helping better the lives of countless animals.

Establishing the first College of Veterinary Medicine, along with an Emergency Veterinary and Teaching Clinic in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, represents a significant opportunity to advance veterinary education, research, and clinical training.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued support of Murray State University and its mission to serve the students and communities of Kentucky. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our request for support as needed.

Thank you,

Ron K. Patterson, Ed.D.
President

Dr. Laura Ken Hoffman
Founding Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

We are Racers.

murraystate.edu

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Equal education and employment opportunities M/F/D, AA employer. Murray State University supports a clean and healthy campus. Please refrain from personal tobacco use.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

STATE SENATE

702 CAPITAL AVENUE
FRANKFORT, KY 40601
502-564-8100
JASON.HOWELL@LRC.KY.GOV



DISTRICT 1
CALLOWAY, FULTON,
GRAVES, HICKMAN,
LYON & TRIGG
COUNTIES

JASON HOWELL

March 5, 2026

The Honorable James Comer
United States House of Representatives
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Comer:

As state senator for the 1st District, I write in support of Murray State University's Community Project Funding request for an emergency veterinary and teaching clinic. This \$48.5 million facility is the missing link in Kentucky's efforts to solve the veterinary workforce crisis.

While Murray State University has recently received approval to offer the doctorate of veterinary medicine degree, the success of this program—and the accreditation process with the American Veterinary Medical Association—depends on having world-class clinical facilities. Currently, far more qualified Kentucky students apply for veterinary school than can be accommodated. By building this clinic, we will provide those students with the necessary training while simultaneously offering emergency livestock services that are currently unavailable in our rural communities.

Located at the nexus of five contiguous states, Murray State University is strategically positioned to be a regional leader in veterinary medicine. I ask you to join me in supporting this construction project to ensure our farmers and community have the support they need and our students have the future they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Howell", with a long, sweeping underline.

Jason Howell
State Senator

JH/ajd

Commonwealth of Kentucky

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

5th Legislative District
MaryBeth.Imes@lrc.ky.gov



STATE CAPITOL ANNEX
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
502-564-8100
Fax (502) 564-1820

MARY BETH IMES

March 5, 2026

The Honorable James Comer
United States House of Representatives
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Comer:

I request your favorable consideration of Murray State University's Community Project Funding request for a new Emergency Veterinary and Teaching Clinic. As Murray State prepares to launch the first College of Veterinary Medicine in Kentucky, this \$48.5 million initiative represents a critical investment in the students and agricultural providers of the Jackson Purchase and beyond.

The Kentucky Legislature in Spring 2025 provided \$60 million toward the creation of a Veterinary Sciences Building to assist in the next steps toward a College of Veterinary Medicine. Murray State University in February 2026 was granted approval from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education to offer a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM). The university is working through the initial steps of accreditation through the American Veterinary Medical Association. This will be the only College of Veterinary Medicine in the commonwealth.

Murray State has a storied history of student success and industry partnership. This clinic is a direct response to the urgent needs voiced by our farmers and rural veterinarians who lack adequate after-hours care facilities for livestock. This clinic will not only solve a local healthcare gap for animals but will also serve as a living laboratory for pre-veterinary and Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine students.

Kentucky students deserve the opportunity to study and practice within their home state. Supporting this initiative helps keep our best and brightest in Kentucky while protecting our agricultural economy. Thank you for your continued leadership and for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Beth Imes".

Mary Beth Imes
State Representative
5th House District

MBI/cg

Kenneth C. Imes
Calloway County Judge/Executive



Calloway County Fiscal Court
201 South 4th Street
Murray, Kentucky 42071
(270) 753-2920 Fax 753-2911

March 4, 2026

U.S. Congressman James Comer
United States House of Representatives
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Comer,

I am writing to express my strong support for Murray State University's request for Community Project Funding to construct an Emergency Veterinary and Teaching Clinic. This \$48.5 million project will result in a state-of-the-art, 60,000-square-foot facility essential to the university's mission of addressing critical regional needs.

With the Kentucky Legislature's 2025 commitment of \$60 million and the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education's 2026 approval of the Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program, Murray State University has begun the Commonwealth's only College of Veterinary Medicine. However, the completion of this specific Emergency Veterinary and Teaching Clinic is a vital component of that success.

The shortage of rural-serving veterinarians is a direct threat to our small farmers and the security of our food supply. By establishing this clinic in Western Kentucky, Murray State will provide after-hours care for large animal livestock while serving as a premiere clinical training ground for future DVM and veterinary technology students. I respectfully ask for your support in securing this funding to ensure the continued economic growth and agricultural stability of our region.

Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Imes, Judge Executive

Bob Rogers
Mayor



City of Murray



March 4, 2026

U.S. Congressman James Comer
United States House of Representatives
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Comer,

Please accept this letter of strong support for Murray State University's construction for an Emergency Veterinary and Teaching Clinic through the Community Project Fund. The request is for funding toward the \$48.5 million building for the construction of a new 55,000 – 60,000 square foot clinic to support this key initiative.

The Kentucky Legislature in Spring 2025 provided \$60 million toward the creation of a Veterinary Sciences Building to assist in the next steps toward a College of Veterinary Medicine. Murray State University, in February 2026, was granted approval from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education to offer a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM). The University is working through the initial steps of accreditation through the American Veterinary Medical Association. This will be the only College of Veterinary Medicine in the Commonwealth. Murray State has a long history of offering academic programs of excellence, and they are widely known across the Commonwealth and beyond for their exceptional commitment to student support and success.

Far western Kentucky is poised to meet the economic development needs of the Commonwealth. Murray State has a successful record of partnership with industry and is responding to those demands in the proposal for the DVM. There is currently a shortage of rural-serving veterinarians in the region, and far more well-prepared and high-performing Kentucky students apply for veterinary school than who are accepted. The Commonwealth needs more veterinarians to support small farmers and the food supply, and the absence of a veterinary school in the Commonwealth is a threat to continued economic growth. A veterinary school in western Kentucky harnesses the connections of five contiguous states with excellently prepared undergraduate students to help solve veterinary workforce needs. The Emergency Veterinary and Teaching Clinic is in direct response to state-wide veterinarians, cattle farmers, and other animal agricultural providers who have stated that there is a great need for the construction of an emergency veterinary and teaching clinic and equipment for after-hours care of large animal

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livestock and other animals. This would be utilized by our students, as well, for teaching and learning purposes for our current pre-veterinary and veterinary technology students, as well as future Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) students.

I ask you to join me in your support of Murray State University in its efforts to create an Emergency Veterinary and Teaching Clinic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Rogers".

Bob Rogers
Mayor
City of Murray