

Saving America's Horses Initiative

Protective Legislation for Equines

Before the year 2007, three major equine slaughterhouses operated in the United States... Dallas Crown, Kaufman, Texas, Beltex, Fort Worth, Texas, and Cavel International, DeKalb, Illinois. All were Belgian owned.

During the 109th Congress, the House of Representatives considered legislation to ban the slaughter of horses for human consumption and to stop the exportation of horses for slaughter elsewhere. With numerous sponsors, HR 503 passed the House overwhelmingly just to be squelched once it reached the Senate.

In 2006 Congress put language in an Agriculture Appropriations Bill that cut off funding for horse meat inspections as a short term fix, until a federal ban could be passed. The USDA then attempted to get horse slaughter plants to fund their own inspections, but the U.S. District Court ruled that it's ILLEGAL for horse slaughter plants to pay the USDA for their own health inspections. This effectively shut down horse slaughter in the U.S.

Pro slaughter lobbyists have mounted vigorous opposition insisting that animals constitute private property and that banning slaughter is an unconstitutional restraint of trade. But a three-judge panel on the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that banning horse slaughter for human consumption IS constitutional.

The original sponsors of HR 503 reintroduced amended bills in the 110th and 111th congress, known as The Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act. But select politicians and lobbyists have effectively been able to block the passage of these bills. Proponents continue to push to reopen horse slaughter plants in the U.S. under the influence of deep pocket foreign interests.

Unable to slaughter horses in the U.S., the industry opened new slaughter plants in Canada and Mexico, where our American horses have continuously been exported for slaughter to this day.

American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011, SB 1176

A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

Original Sponsor:

[Mary Landrieu](#) (D-LA)

Cosponsor Total: 27

(As of 12/06/2011)

5 Republicans

20 Democrats

2 Independents

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The House version of the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act is known as H.R. 2966

The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act will amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2966

Original Sponsor:

[Dan Burton](#) (R-IN 5th)

Cosponsor Total: 124

(As of 12/06/2011)

27 Republicans

97 Democrats

The Horse Transportation Safety Act of 2011, SB 1281

The Horse Transportation Safety Act of 2011, SB 1281, is a strong bipartisan bill sponsored by Senator Mark Steven Kirk (R-IL) and Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), amends title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate commerce in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another.

Original Sponsor:

[Mark Kirk](#) (R-IL)

Cosponsor Total: 7

(As of 10/12/2011)

1 Republicans

5 Democrats

1 Independents

Interstate Horseracing Improvement Act of 2011, SB 886

This bill would amend the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 to prohibit the use of performance-enhancing drugs in horseracing, and for other purposes.

Interstate Horseracing Improvement Act of 2011, HR 1733

The bill would amend the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 to prohibit the use of performance-enhancing drugs in horseracing, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1018, the Restoring Our American Mustangs Act or R.O.A.M., would have restored protections for wild horses and burros lost in 2004 under the Wild Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. This bill would have also improved the tracking and health of thousands of wild horses and burros.

This bill was introduced in the 111th Congress, but was not passed. A new bill has not yet introduced.

"Saving America's Horses" is an educational project under **Wild for Life Foundation**, a 501 c3 nonprofit charity dedicated to protecting, saving and preserving wild and domestic equines. Donations to Wild for Life Foundation are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by law.