

Dear [Representative or Senator],

As your constituent, I am writing to urge you to support the Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act (H.R. 3355).

American horse slaughter is a horse welfare and public health crisis. The SAFE Act addresses this crisis by permanently banning domestic horse slaughter and prohibiting the exportation of American horses for slaughter.

Approximately 37,000 American horses were exported to Mexico and Canada for slaughter in 2020. **Yet over 80% of Americans are against horse slaughter**, and the majority of Americans overwhelmingly view horses as companion and performance animals--not as livestock.

It is impossible to slaughter horses humanely due to their physiology. Horse slaughter is not a humane end-of-life option. They face documented, consistent abuses and suffering during all phases of the slaughter pipeline—including still being conscious while hoisted and cut—with little APHIS oversight and welfare enforcement, as documented by the USDA Office of the Inspector General in its most recent APHIS equines-for-slaughter audit report. This is a horse welfare crisis that is not specific to horse slaughter in Mexico and Canada; the USDA documented the same abuse and suffering at American slaughter facilities when regulated.

Unlike other livestock, American horses are not raised for human consumption. Their meat is adulterated with FDA-banned medications and is unsafe to eat. And even people who choose not to eat horse meat can be exposed to these FDA-banned medications. These medications are present in horse slaughter byproducts--especially blood, sludge, and wastewater--and can contaminate groundwater and enter the food chain when sludge is distributed on crops. This is a public health crisis that reaches Americans even when horse slaughter is not regulated in America.

There are humane, accessible, and practical solutions to horse population control in the United States. **92.3% of horses exported for slaughter are in good condition. They are not unwanted horses. The majority are young, healthy, and adoptable.** Data collected by the Equine Welfare Database Collective states there is daily capacity for 47,000 horses in rescue facilities. This data does not include all rescues in the U.S. or any individuals who are looking to adopt. **With slaughter numbers on the decline, trends and data imply there are enough homes for at-risk American horses in the slaughter pipeline each year.**

American horse slaughter benefits few and hurts many. It is a horse welfare and public health crisis that needs immediate attention. I urge you to support the SAFE Act today.

I appreciate all that you do for our state and our country, and I look forward to working with your office in the future.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Address]

[Email and/or Phone]