

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Andy Harris
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
2362-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.,
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
1001 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Harris and Ranking Member Bishop:

As you craft the Fiscal Year 2025 Agriculture appropriations bill, we write in strong support for a permanent restriction on the use of taxpayer funds for horse slaughter operations in the United States. Specifically, we ask that language be included for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) budget prohibiting tax dollars from being spent to inspect horse slaughter plants with the notation that the current annual prohibition should continue "hereafter," thereby permanently preventing horsemeat from being processed in the United States for human consumption. This overwhelmingly popular and fiscally responsible policy has been enacted for each year since Fiscal Year 2014 and for all but two years since 2005. Horse slaughter is an inherently cruel practice that 83% of Americans want to see permanently banned.

In 2012, more than 160,000 American horses were shipped abroad to slaughter for human consumption. There has been a consistent and dramatic decline in those numbers over the last decade: in 2023, 20,370 American horses were exported for this purpose – an almost 88% decrease.

Beyond fiscal and humane concerns, flesh from American horses is not fit for human consumption because equines are not treated as food animals in the United States and therefore are not maintained under the regulatory food safety requirements for animals raised for human consumption. Throughout their lives, horses routinely receive drugs and medications that are specifically banned by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in food animals due to their toxicity to humans.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to include the following language in the Fiscal Year 2025 Agriculture appropriations bill to permanently prevent taxpayer dollars from being spent on the slaughter of American horses:

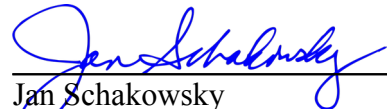
None of the funds made available by this Act, or any other Act in this fiscal year or any fiscal year hereafter, may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of any person or personnel — (1) to inspect horses under section 3 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603); (2) to inspect horses under section 903 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of

1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 104-127); or (3) to implement or enforce section 352.19 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, or any other regulation concerning the inspection of slaughter horses.

Sincerely,



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



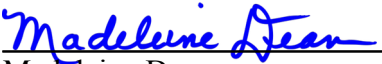
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



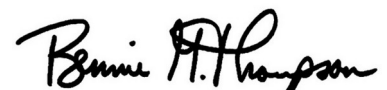
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



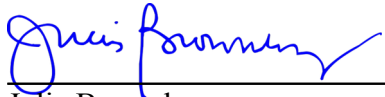
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



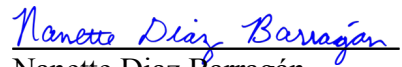
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



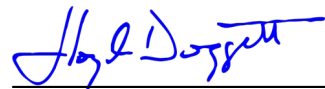
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



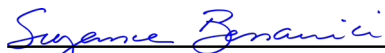
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



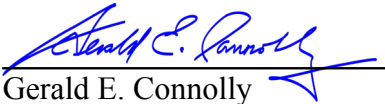
Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress



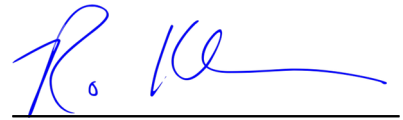
Steve Cohen
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
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Kevin Mullin
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Joe Courtney
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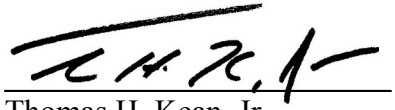
Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Brad Sherman
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Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress



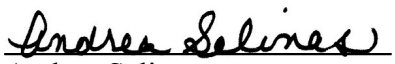
Jason Crow
Member of Congress




Josh Gottheimer
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Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



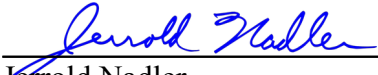
Andrea Salinas
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Dan Goldman
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Jerrold Nadler
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Darren Soto
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Delia C. Ramirez
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Doris Matsui
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Katie Porter
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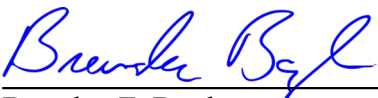
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



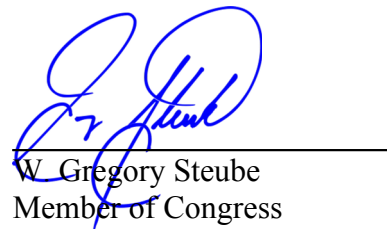
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



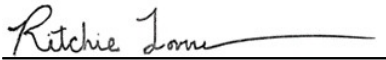
Dina Titus
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Brendan F. Boyle
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W. Gregory Steube
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Ritchie Torres
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Nancy Mace
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Sharice L. Davids
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Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



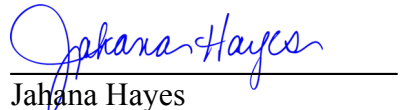
Mark Takano
Member of Congress



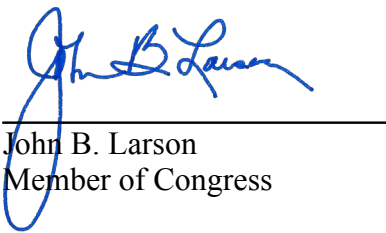
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



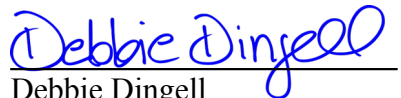
John B. Larson
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James P. McGovern
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Marcus J. Molinaro
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Debbie Dingell
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
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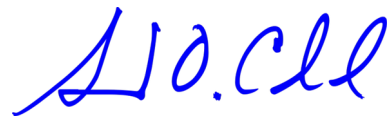
Lizzie Fletcher
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David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Summer Lee
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Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



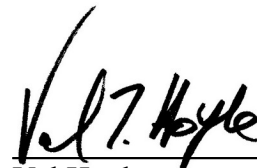
Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



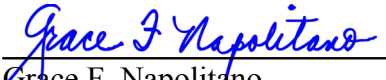
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress





Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress





Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

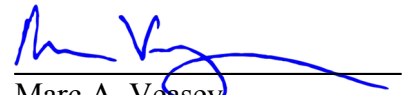

Mike Levin
Member of Congress


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

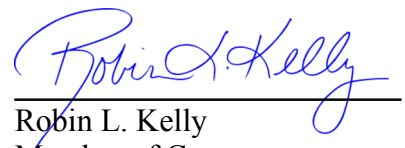

Sean Casten
Member of Congress

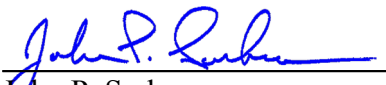

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

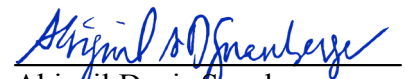

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

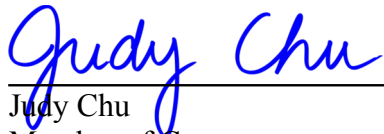

Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress


Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress


Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress


John P. Sarbanes
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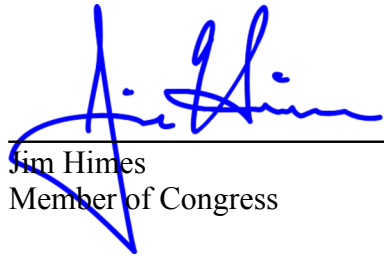

Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
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Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



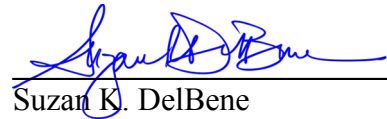
Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



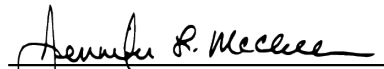
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



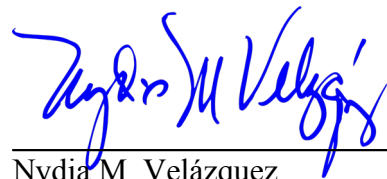
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



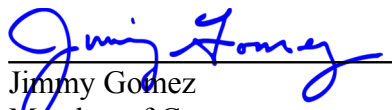
Dean Phillips
Member of Congress



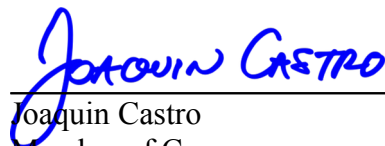
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



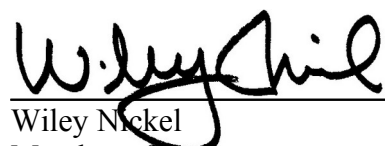
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



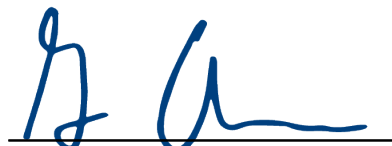
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Wiley Nickel
Member of Congress



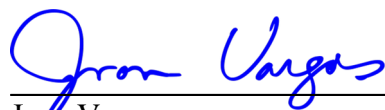
Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



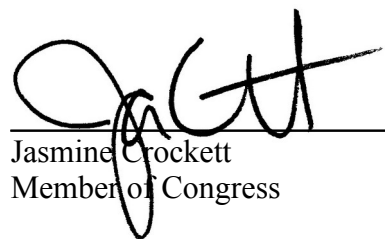
Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
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Ted W. Lieu
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Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



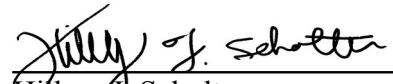
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



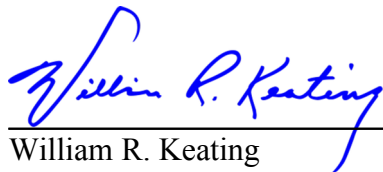
Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



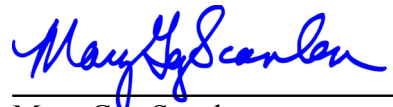
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Hillary P. Scholten
Member of Congress



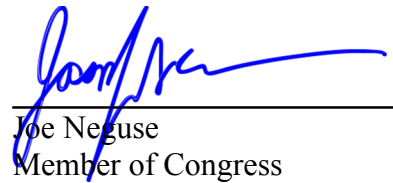
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Mary Gay Scanlon
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Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
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Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



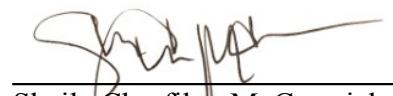
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Nick LaLota
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress