

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
521 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
2267 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Glenn Thompson  
Chairman  
House Agriculture Committee  
1301 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig  
Ranking Member  
House Agriculture Committee  
1010 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Chair Thompson, and Ranking Member Craig,

As you prepare to bring the upcoming Farm Bill to the House floor, we write to request that you include H.R. 1661, the Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act, in the final text of the bill. This critical piece of legislation would amend the Dog and Cat Meat Prohibition Act, which passed as part of the 2018 Farm Bill, to include equines as well, thereby protecting America's horses from being slaughtered for human consumption.

The SAFE Act enjoys strong bipartisan support and was introduced with more than 100 original cosponsors. For almost every year since 2005, Congress has included provisions in annual appropriations legislation specifically barring the use of federal funds to operate horse slaughter facilities. Both of President Trump's administrations and Democratic administrations under former Presidents Obama and Biden have included this restriction in their budget requests.

Furthermore, national polling shows overwhelming public support—83 percent of Americans support a ban on horse slaughter, including 81 percent of Americans from agricultural and rural communities<sup>1</sup>. Not only is horse slaughter inherently inhumane, but it also promotes a predatory industry that harms horse owners and makes rescuing horses more difficult. Congress should make this ban permanent.

The horse slaughter industry is built on predatory behavior and fraud that should be put to an end. "Kill buyers"—those who profit from selling horses to slaughter—use several techniques to funnel horses into the slaughter pipeline. First, they frequently outbid people offering good homes, acquiring horses who otherwise would have had a safe place to land. They also often deceive owners who are trying to re-home their beloved horses by claiming to offer a good home only to sell the horses to slaughterhouses. Finally, many also employ bail-out schemes, preying on the public's emotions by creating artificial emergencies claiming horses will be slaughtered unless "rescued" with high bail fees, which ultimately funds the direct shipment of more horses to slaughter. Simply put, kill buyers are a stain on our society, and we cannot allow their actions to continue unabated. In addition, there are significant and well-documented welfare concerns associated with the horse slaughter industry. The type of captive bolt method of stunning, commonly used in horse slaughter, was not designed for horses. The intense physiological "fight or flight" response of these animals makes captive bolt stunning ineffective and inhumane. As a result, panic-stricken horses often suffer repeated blows by the captive bolt and sometimes remain conscious during dismemberment, which is unconscionably cruel<sup>2</sup>. When U.S.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aspc.org/news/new-poll-confirms-overwhelming-majority-americans-oppose-horse-slaughter>

<sup>2</sup> <https://canadianhorsedefencecoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/NICHOLASDODMAN.pdf>

slaughter plants were operating, USDA inspection documents revealed rampant cruelty and similarly gruesome findings.

Not only does Congress need to pass the SAFE Act to make the ban on domestic slaughter permanent, but also end the export of horses to be killed for human consumption in other countries. In 2024, approximately 20,200 American horses were exported to Canadian and Mexican slaughterhouses to be killed for human consumption. While this marks a significant (86 percent) reduction in the number of American horses exported to slaughter over the last decade, tens of thousands of horses continue to suffer. Until Congress passes a permanent prohibition on the slaughter of horses and closes the loophole that allows them to be transported to foreign abattoirs, our nation's horses will continue to meet this unnecessary and inhumane end. With export numbers down and political support as strong as ever, now is the opportune time to pass a ban.

We appreciate your work in crafting a comprehensive Farm Bill that bolsters our country's agriculture policies and reflects the priorities of the American public. The upcoming Farm Bill presents an ideal opportunity to end the slaughter of American horses once and for all, and we hope you will seize this opportunity. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working together to pass a Farm Bill this year.

Sincerely,



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Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



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Nick LaLota  
Member of Congress



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Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



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Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



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Anna Paulina Luna  
Member of Congress



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Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



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Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress

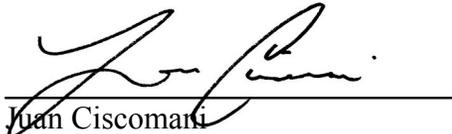


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Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



Troy E. Nehls  
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Juan Ciscomani  
Member of Congress



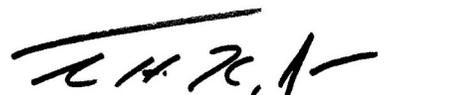
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