

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 12, 2026

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
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Harris and Ranking Member Bishop:

As you craft the Fiscal Year 2027 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, over 166,000 American horses were shipped abroad to slaughter for human consumption. There has been a dramatic decline in those numbers in the intervening years: in 2025, approximately 24,000 American horses were exported for this purpose. 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 2027 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.

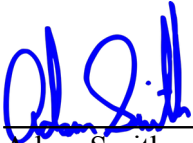
Sincerely,



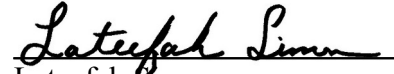
Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



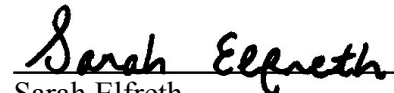
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



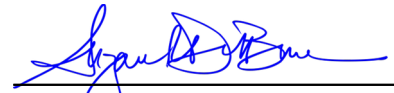
Dina Titus
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



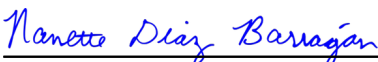
Judy Chu
Member of Congress




Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress




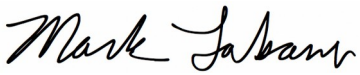
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

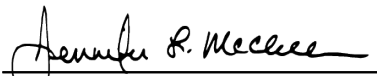



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

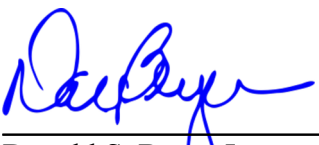

James R. Walkinshaw
Member of Congress


Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress



MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress


Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress


Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



André Carson
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress

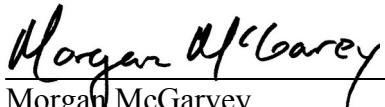

Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

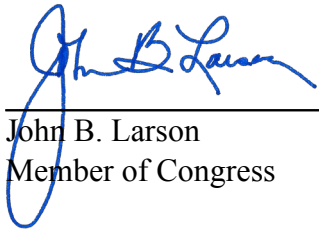

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

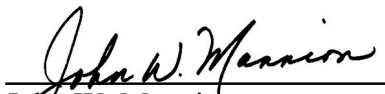

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

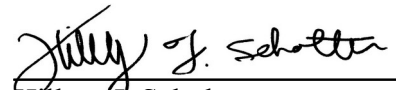

Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress


Lucy McBath
Member of Congress


John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

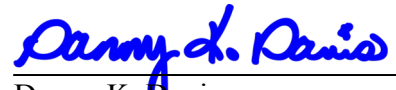

John W. Mannion
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress

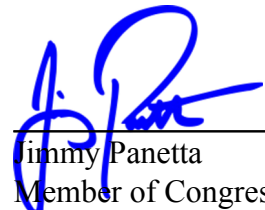

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress


Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress


Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress


Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

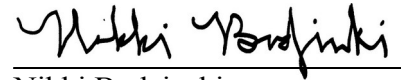

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress


Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress


Cleo Fields
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress



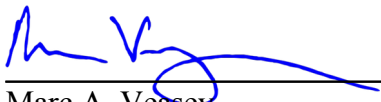
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



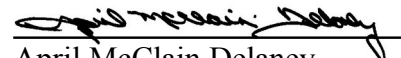
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



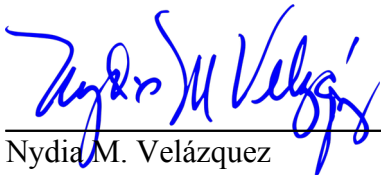
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Bill Foster
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



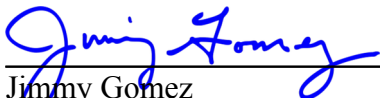
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



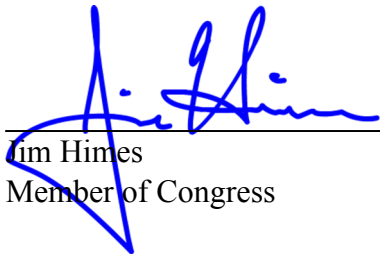
Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



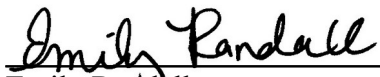
Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Emily Randall
Member of Congress



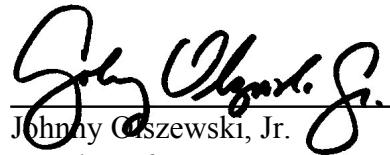
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



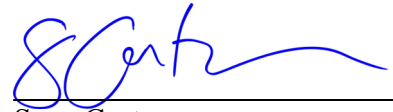
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress




Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



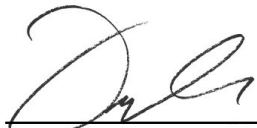
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress



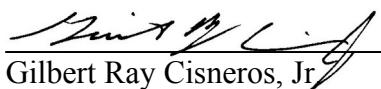
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



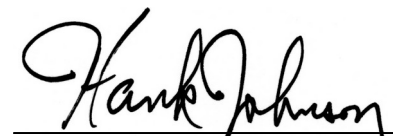
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



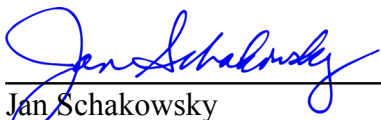
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



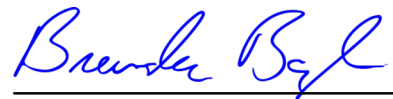
Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



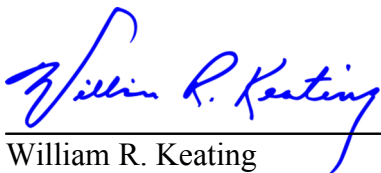
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



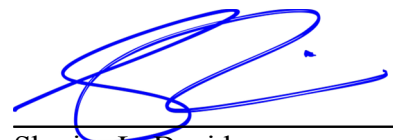
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress




William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress




George Latimer
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



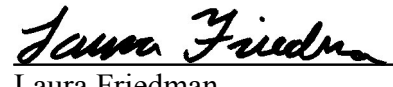
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



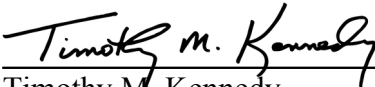
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



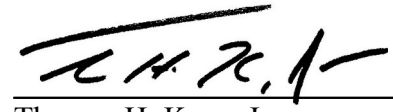
Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



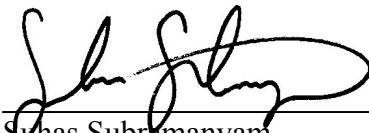
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



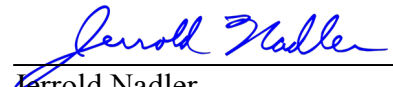
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



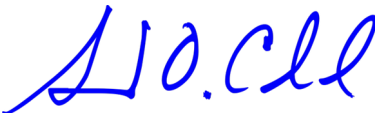
Thomas H. Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress



Suhas Subramanyam
Member of Congress




Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



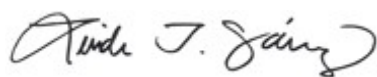
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Dan Meuser
Member of Congress



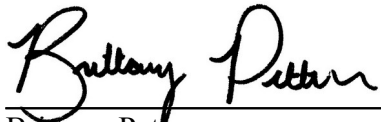
Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress



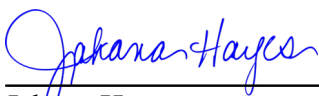
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



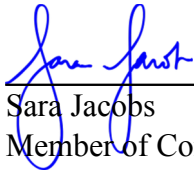
Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



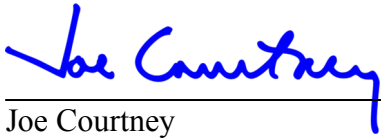
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



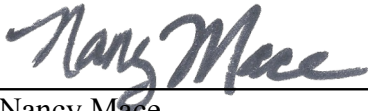
Dave Min
Member of Congress



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Nancy Mace
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



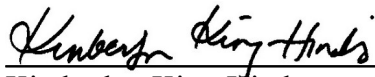
Young Kim
Member of Congress



Chris Deluzio
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



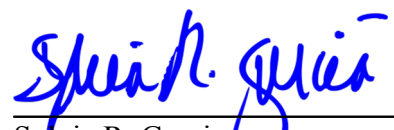
Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Member of Congress



Nellie Pou
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



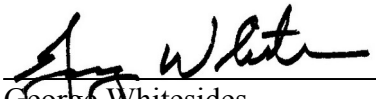
Ami Bera
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Laura A. Gillen
Member of Congress



George Whitesides
Member of Congress



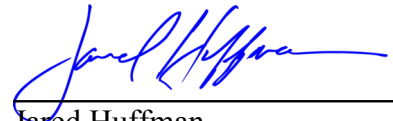
Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Mike Carey
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell
Member of Congress



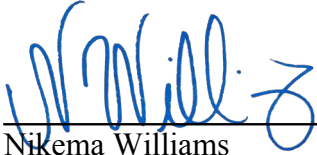
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



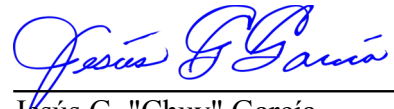
Eric Sorensen
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



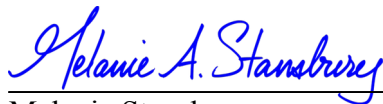
Lois Frankel
Member of Congress




Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress