

# Haaland, Small, and Lujan Vote for Anti Horse Cruelty Legislation to End 'Soring'

WASHINGTON, DC, USA, August 1, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Thursday, July 25th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the U.S. Senator Joseph D. Tydings Memorial Prevent All [Soring](#) Tactics (PAST) Act, H.R. 693, by a vote of [333 to 96](#). U.S. Reps. Debra Haaland, Xochitl Torres Small, and Ben Ray Lujan – the entire House Delegation from New Mexico – all cosponsors of the bill – voted in support of the measure.

U.S. Senator Tom Udall is a cosponsor of S. 1007, the Senate companion bill that mirrors the legislation and U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich is the only member of the delegation that has yet to cosponsor the measure in the 116th Congress.

The PAST Act seeks to strengthen the Horse Protection Act and end the torturous, painful practice of soring Tennessee Walking, Racking, and Spotted Saddle Horses. Soring, the intentional infliction of pain to horses' front limbs by applying caustic chemicals such as mustard oil or kerosene or inserting sharp objects into the horses' hooves to create an exaggerated gait known as the "Big Lick," has plagued the equine world for six decades.



Priscilla Presley, U.S. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Holly Gann, and Marty Irby on Capitol Hill Discussing the PAST Act

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We applaud Reps. Haaland, Small, and Lujan for voting to pass the PAST Act, and we to end this barbaric and indefensible practice that has marred the horse show world for decades.”

*-Marty Irby, executive director at Animal Wellness Action*

“We applaud Reps. Debra Haaland, Xochitl Torres Small, and Ben Ray Lujan for voting to pass the PAST Act to end this barbaric and indefensible practice that has marred the horse show world for decades,” said Marty Irby, executive director at Animal Wellness Action and past president of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders’ & Exhibitors’ Association. “The entire New Mexico House delegation’s support of the bill is a powerful signal to the Senate that it should saddle up and end this cruelty to horses once and for all.”

“I am pleased the House passed the PAST Act with strong bipartisan support today. This legislation will close

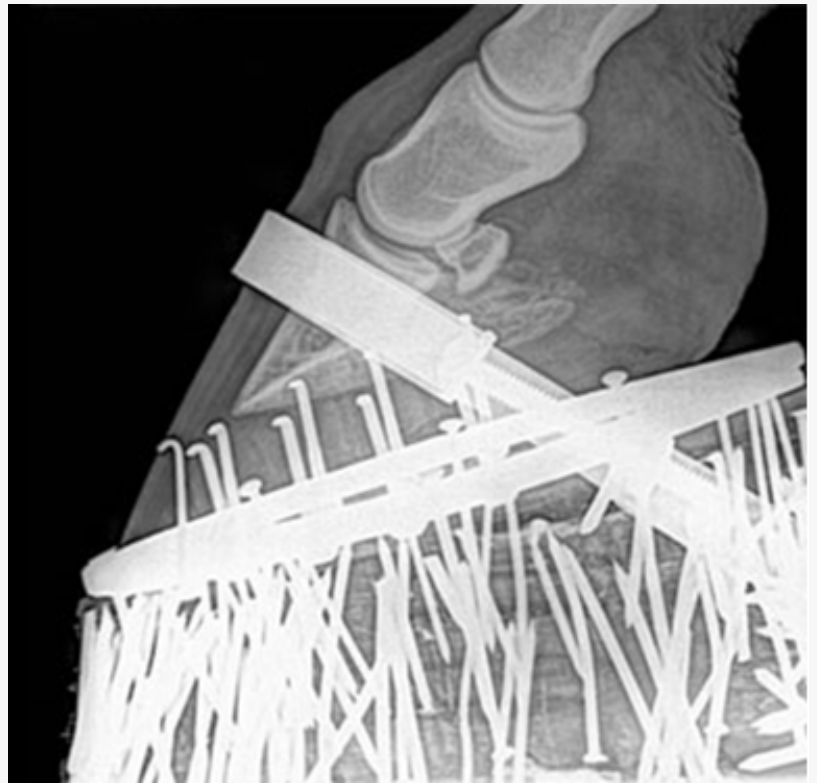
loopholes that enable the cruel practice of “soring” horses,” said U.S. House Majority Leader

Steny Hoyer (D-MD). "I thank Rep. Schrader for being a champion of animal welfare issues and building on the legacy of my late friend, Senator Tydings. I urge Senator McConnell to take up this bipartisan legislation without delay."

"Horse soring still runs rampant even though laws have been on the books for decades banning this cruel practice," said Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR), the lead sponsor of the bill. "We gave folks a chance to self-police, but the abusive behaviors continued. The bill that was passed today will strengthen and improve current regulations by improving USDA enforcement, increasing civil and criminal penalties, and banning incentives to sore horses. This is a historic day and I am grateful for my colleagues who worked tirelessly to get this legislation across the finish line and for our equine athletes who provide us with inspiration and pleasure."

The bill had been blocked for years by a handful of well-placed lawmakers, but a new House rule now triggers consideration of any measure that attracts 290 or more cosponsors brought the issue to the floor. The PAST Act attracted 308 cosponsors and was led by U.S. Reps. Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and Ted Yoho (R-FL), co-chairs of the Congressional Veterinary Medicine Caucus, along with Reps. Steve Cohen (D-TN), Ron Estes (R-KS), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), and Chris Collins (R-NY). The Senate companion bill is led by U.S. Sens. Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Mark Warner (D-VA) and has garnered 40 cosponsors.

The PAST Act would ban the use of painful large stacked shoes and ankle chains and would also eliminate the existing system of self-regulation by the industry and toughen penalties for violators of the Horse Protection Act. It's supported by Animal Wellness Action, the American Horse Council, American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, United States Equestrian Federation, National Sheriff's Association, and New Mexico Veterinary Medical Association.



Priscilla Presley and Animal Wellness Action Executive Director Marty Irby Lobbying for the PAST Act on Capitol Hill in January of 2019

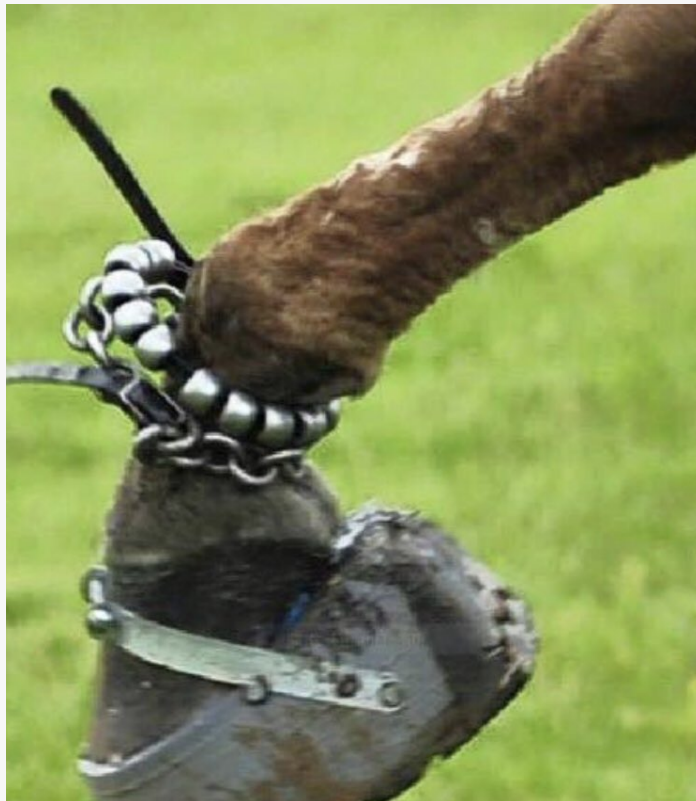


See what Members of Congress from across the nation have to say about the PAST Act by [clicking here](#) for our landing page.

The Animal Wellness Foundation (Foundation) is a Los Angeles-based private charitable organization with a mission of helping animals by making veterinary care available to everyone with a pet, regardless of economic ability. We organize rescue efforts and medical services for dogs and cats in need and help homeless pets find a loving caregiver. We are advocates for getting veterinarians to the front lines of the animal welfare movement; promoting responsible pet ownership; and vaccinating animals against infectious diseases such as distemper. We also support policies that prevent animal cruelty and that alleviate suffering. We believe helping animals helps us all.

Animal Wellness Action (Action) is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) organization with a mission of helping animals by promoting legal standards forbidding cruelty. We champion causes that alleviate the suffering of companion animals, farm animals, and wildlife. We advocate for policies to stop dogfighting and cockfighting and other forms of malicious cruelty and to confront factory farming and other systemic forms of animal exploitation. To prevent cruelty, we promote enacting good public policies and we work to enforce those policies. To enact good laws, we must elect good lawmakers, and that's why we remind voters which candidates care about our issues and which ones don't. We believe helping animals helps us all.

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Example of soring that enforcement of the Horse Protection Act would prevent

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