

Indiana Congressional Delegation Divided, Baird, Bucshon, & Hollingsworth Vote to Keep Animal Cruelty Alive

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, USA, August 2, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act, H.R. 693, by a vote of [333 to 96](#). Bipartisan U.S. Reps. Jim Banks, Jackie Walorski, Greg Pence, Susan Brooks, and Andre Carson voted in support of the measure, and Reps. Jim Baird, Larry Bucshon, and Trey Hollingsworth cast their anti-animal protection votes against the legislation. Rep. Peter Visclosky abstained from the vote but is listed as a cosponsor of the bill along with both Walorski, and Carson.

Neither U.S. Senators Todd Young nor Mike Braun have cosponsored the Senate companion bill, S. 1007, with 43 cosponsors led by U.S. Senators Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Mark Warner (D-VA) that mirrors the House passed legislation.

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.

“

It's disappointing to see Reps. Baird, Bucshon, and Hollingsworth side with abusers...”

Marty Irby, executive director at Animal Wellness Action

“We applaud Reps. Banks, Walorski, Pence, Brooks, and Carson 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. “It's disappointing to see Reps. Baird, Bucshon, and Hollingsworth side with abusers, but the House's

overwhelming 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.”



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

"Once soring ends, and the "big lick" pain-based gait is eradicated, the Tennessee Walking Horse will thrive and grow like never before, and can be proudly exhibited around the globe," said Animal Wellness advocate Priscilla Presley. "I want to see the breed flourish and believe Elvis would want to see that as well. The Tennessee Walking Horse, in its sound and natural form is the most versatile, and greatest breed of horse on earth."

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).

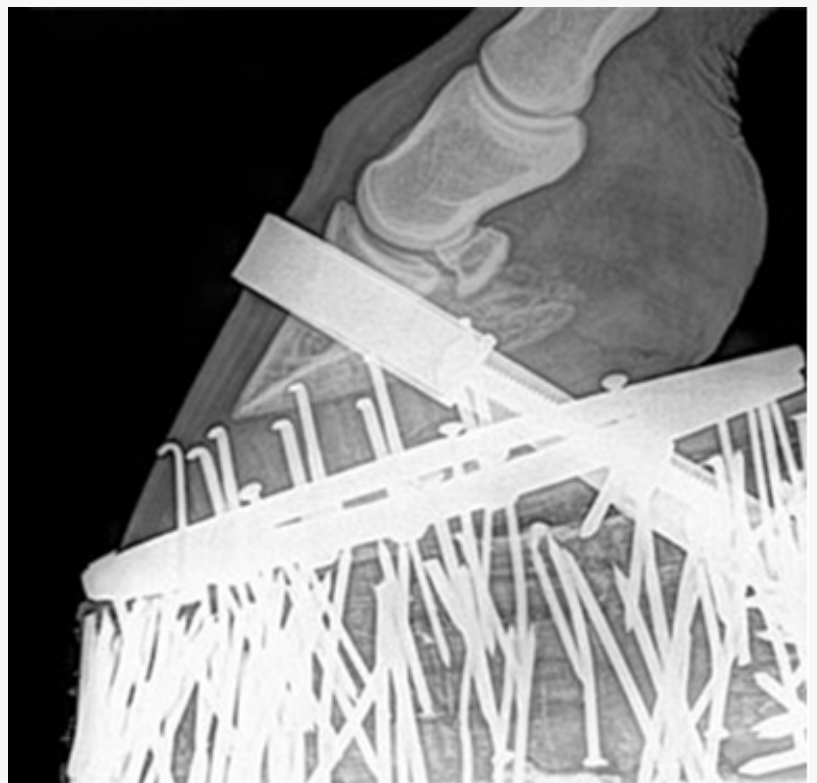
The PAST Act would ban the use of painful large stacked shoes and ankle chains and would also eliminate the existing system of self-regulation by the industry and toughen penalties for violators of the Horse Protection Act. It's supported by Animal Wellness Action, the American Horse Council, American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

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



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

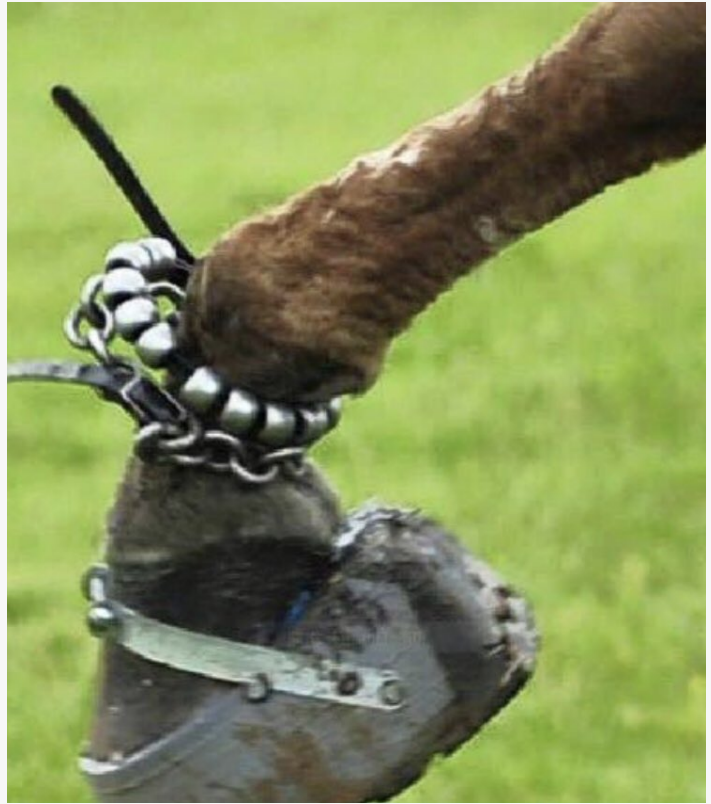


Example of a 'Big Lick' stacked shoe XRay

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.

Marty Irby
ANIMAL WELLNESS ACTION
+1 2028215686
[email us here](#)
Visit us on social media:
[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)



Devices the PAST Act would outlaw in horse shows



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

This press release can be viewed online at: <http://www.einpresswire.com>

Disclaimer: If you have any questions regarding information in this press release please contact the company listed in the press release. Please do not contact EIN Presswire. We will be unable to assist you with your inquiry. EIN Presswire disclaims any content contained in these releases. © 1995-2019 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.