

Nashville Metro Council Endorses Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act to End Animal Cruelty 'Tradition'

Council Passes Resolution 1868 Urging Senators Lamar Alexander and Marsha Blackburn to Cosponsor and #PassthePASTAct

NASHVILLE , TENNESSEE, USA, August 7, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Today, the Nashville Davidson Metro Council passed Resolution 1868, led by Councilwoman Kathleen Murphy, supporting and urging U.S. Senators Lamar Alexander and Marsha Blackburn to cosponsor and pass the [Prevent All Soring Tactics](#) (PAST) Act, S. 1007.

This monumental statement by the Council comes on the heels of the PAST Act's passage in the U.S. House on July 25th by a vote of [333 to 96](#). U.S. Reps. Jim Cooper (D-Nashville), Tim Burchett (R-Knoxville), and Steve Cohen (D-Memphis), in bipartisan fashion, voted for the measure that would end six decades of the abusive practice of soring. In a spirited debate on the House floor on July 24th, Reps. Scott Desjarlais (R-Jasper), and John Rose (R-Cookeville), represented the pro-soring coalition against the PAST Act in defense of the "Big Lick" Animal Cruelty that's exhibited annually at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration in Shelbyville.



Councilwoman Kathleen Murphy

Soring is 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 the exaggerated gait known as the "Big Lick."

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*Marty Irby, executive director
at Animal Wellness Action*

“We applaud the Nashville Davidson Metro Council and Councilwoman Kathleen Murphy for taking a stand against the scourge of soring that’s marred the state and Tennessee Walking Horse for sixty years,” said [Marty Irby](#), executive director at Animal Wellness Action and past president of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders’ & Exhibitors’ Association. “Tennesseans have sent a strong message to Lamar Alexander, Marsha Blackburn, and the pro-soring coalition that obstructionist tactics to keep the soring 'tradition' alive will not prevail.”

“I have tried to persuade the walking horse industry to clean up its act for many years and have given it a chance to stop the scandals,” said Rep. Jim Cooper in a letter to

constituents. “Congress has lost its patience. The public wants horses protected.”

The PAST Act, led by U.S. Reps. Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and Ted Yoho (R-FL), cochairs of the Congressional Veterinary Medicine Caucus, was cosponsored by 308 Members of the U.S. House

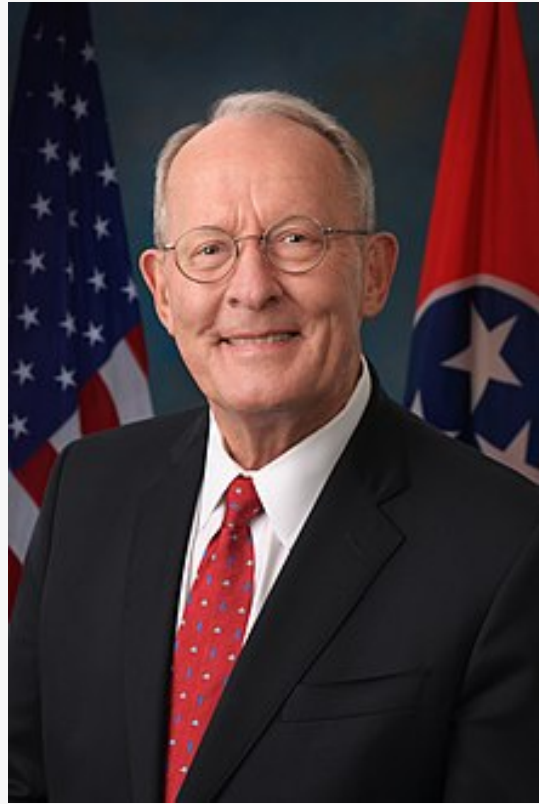
of Representatives, including Rep. Steve Cohen (D-Memphis), and its Senate companion, led by U.S. Sens. Mike Crapo (R-ID), and Mark Warner (D-VA), S. 1007, has garnered 43 total cosponsors in the Upper Chamber.

The PAST Act would ban the use of painful large stacked shoes and ankle chains, eliminate the existing system of self-regulation by the industry, and toughen penalties for violators of the Horse Protection Act and is 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 Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association

The PAST Act has been blocked in Congress for the past six years by Alexander and Blackburn, along with Rep/ Scott Desjarlais, but the new House Rules in the 116th Congress created a pathway for any legislation that's reached 290 cosponsors (2/3 of the House) to receive a vote.

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



U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander



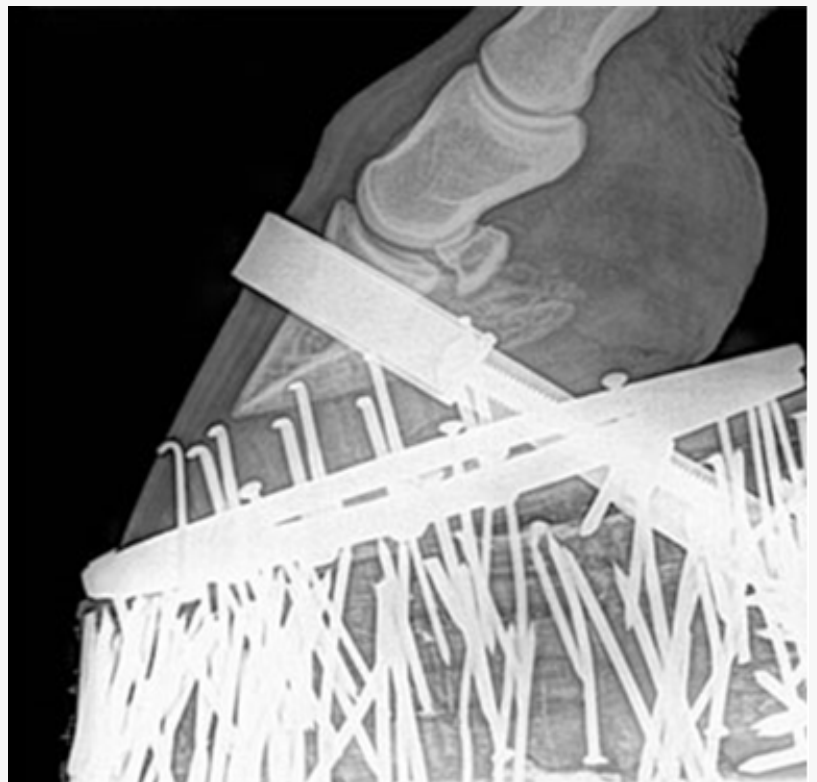
U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn

issues and which ones don't. We believe helping animals helps us all.

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Example of soring that the PAST Act would prevent



Example of a 'Big Lick' stacked shoe XRay that the PAST Act would ban

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

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