

Animal Wellness Applauds Minnesota Congressional Delegation for Working to Protect Iconic American Horses

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA , USA , August 16, 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](#). Nearly all the bipartisan U.S. Reps. from Minnesota, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson, Jim Hagedorn, Angie Craig, Dean Phillips, Betty McCollum, Illahn Omar, and Pete Stauber voted in support of the measure, while Rep. Tom Emmer, a cosponsor of the measure, in an odd twist, broke from the majority of Republicans in the U.S. House, and the delegation - voting against the bill he cosponsored. All the Members who voted for the bill were also cosponsors except for Rep. Omar.

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.

U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar is listed as a cosponsor of the Senate companion bill, S. 1007, led by the senior U.S. Senator from Idaho, Republican Mike Crapo, that mirrors the House passed legislation. Senator Tina Smith has not yet cosponsored the Senate PAST Act.

"We applaud House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson, and the Members of the Minnesota Delegation who voted 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 landslide support for the PAST Act is a powerful signal to the U.S. Senate that it should schedule a vote and direct Secretary Sonny Perdue's USDA to enforce the Horse Protection Act 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

“Timing is ripe, and the majority of Americans want to see Congress work to protect these iconic American horses upon whose backs our country was built upon,” said Animal Wellness Advocate Priscilla Presley. “U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell should swiftly schedule a vote on the PAST Act, and execute the will of the American people, and I call on him to do so!”

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 the American Quarter Horse Association, 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 Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association.

The PAST Act has been blocked for years by a handful of well-placed lawmakers, but a new House rule triggering consideration of any measure that attracts 290 or more cosponsors brought the issue to the floor. PAST attracted 308 cosponsors, and was led by U.S. Reps. Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and Ted Yoho (R-FL), cochairs 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 has garnered 43 cosponsors.

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Priscilla Presley, Animal Wellness Advocate

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

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.

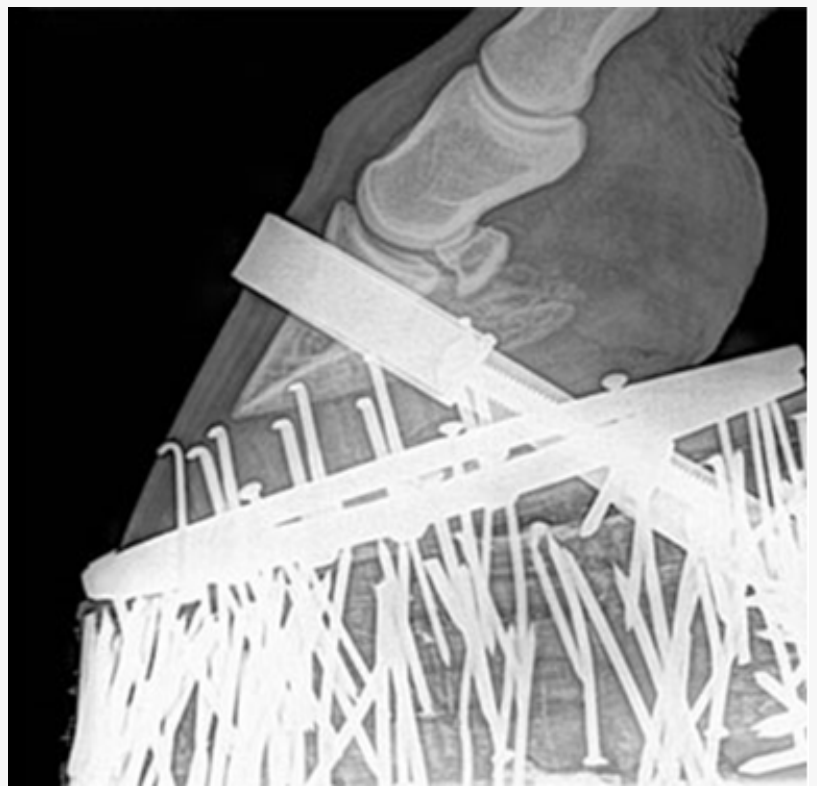
Animal Wellness Action (Action) is a Washington, D.C.-based 501(c)(4) organization with a mission of helping animals by promoting legal standards forbidding cruelty. We champion causes that alleviate the suffering of companion animals, farm animals, and wildlife. We advocate for policies to stop dogfighting 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



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

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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Big Lick Shoe the PAST Act Would Eliminate



Big Lick Shoe and Ankle Chains the PAST Act Would Eliminate



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

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