

Rep. David McKinley Champions Protection of Iconic American Horses, Reps. Alex Mooney & Carol Miller Side with Abusers

CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA , USA, August 20, 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](#). U.S. Rep. David McKinley, a champion and cosponsor of the bill – voted in support of the measure. Both U.S. Reps. Alex Mooney and Carol Miller voted against the PAST Act, siding with abusers.

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.

Neither U.S. Senator Joe Manchin nor Senator Shelley Moore Capito are listed as cosponsors of S. 1007, the Senate companion bill led by U.S. Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) that mirrors the House passed legislation. Capito has previously taken a position in support of the PAST Act as cosponsor during her time serving in the U.S. House in the 113th Congress.

"We applaud Rep. David McKinley for his key role in passing 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 overwhelming House support of the bill is a powerful signal to the U.S. Senate that it should saddle up and end this cruelty to horses once and for all."



U.S. Rep. David McKinley

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The bottom line is you are either for animal cruelty, or you are against it.”
- U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho (R-FL)

“The bottom line is you are either for animal cruelty, or you are against it,” said Rep. Ted Yoho (R-FL), the lead Republican sponsor of the PAST Act, and co-chair of the Congressional Veterinary Medicine Caucus.

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)

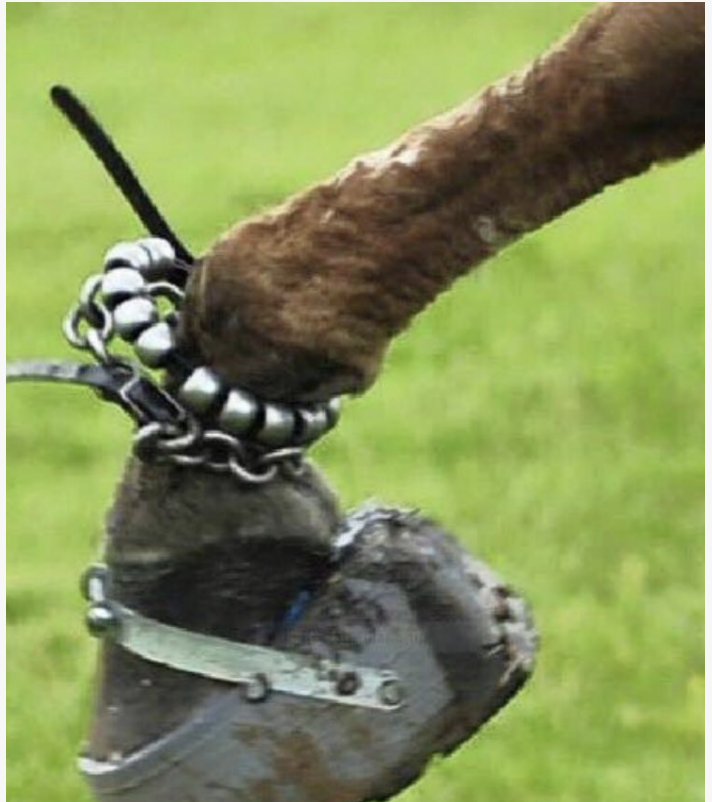
and has garnered 43 cosponsors.

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 West Virginia Veterinary Medical Association.

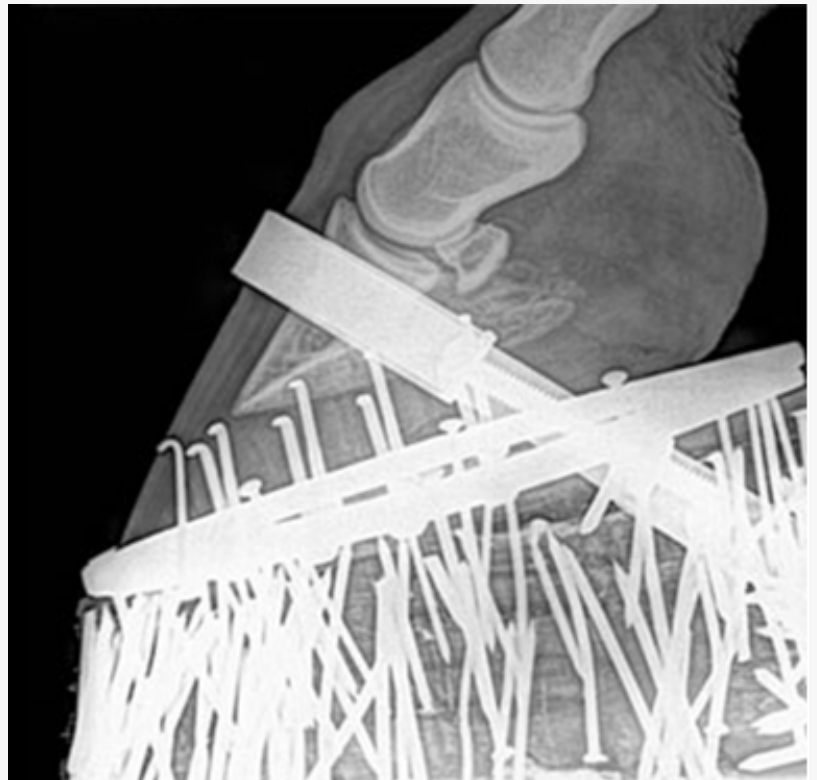
See what Members of Congress from across the nation have to say about the PAST Act by [clicking here](#) for our landing page.

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 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.



Devices the PAST Act would outlaw



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

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