

NAIA LAUDS INTRODUCTION OF SENATE BILL TO BETTER PROTECT THE U.S. FROM ZOONOTIC DISEASE

NAIA LAUDS INTRODUCTION OF SENATE BILL TO BETTER PROTECT THE HEALTH OF PEOPLE AND ANIMALS FROM ZOONOTIC DISEASES CARRIED AND TRANSMITTED BY CANINE IMPORTS

PORTLAND, OR, UNITED STATES, August 4, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Today the [National Animal Interest Alliance \(NAIA\)](#) hailed the bipartisan introduction of the Healthy Dog Importation Act in the U.S. Senate.



NAIA is grateful to Senators Smith and Grassley for introducing this timely legislation. The pandemic shows the need to better protect the U.S. from highly contagious pathogens and zoonotic diseases"

Patti Strand, NAIA President

The legislation, introduced by Senators Tina Smith (D-MN) and Chuck Grassley (R-IA), establishes commonsense health and vaccination requirements for the more than one million dogs imported into the U.S. each year. Representatives Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and Dusty Johnson (R-SD) introduced companion legislation in the House in June.

Under current law, only one percent of canine imports are subject to an adequate health screening to ensure they are healthy enough to travel and free of disease and parasites. The Healthy Dog Importation Act modernizes our outdated inspection system and equips the U.S. Department of Agriculture with the authority and resources needed to oversee and monitor the large number of dogs imported into our country.

"NAIA is grateful to Senators Smith and Grassley for introducing this timely legislation. The pandemic shows the need to better protect the U.S. from highly contagious pathogens and zoonotic diseases," said Patti Strand, founder and President of NAIA.

"For years, public health agencies have documented cases where imported dogs have brought in rabies, new strains of canine influenza, leptospirosis, screwworm, and other diseases and pests that threaten animal and human health. While we applaud the Centers for Disease Control for taking steps to reduce the risk of rabid canines entering the US from high-risk rabies countries, we are also concerned about the 90 percent of dog imports that remain unchecked. The Healthy Dog Importation Act is necessary to ensure that all dogs brought in from overseas are healthy and disease-free before entering the United States."

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