

**U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20515**

**OPPOSE H.R. 857**

Dear Colleague,

As you may know, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act would prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption. What many fail to realize is that this legislation would do more harm than good for the treatment of unwanted horses. As Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Agriculture, we would like to invite you to join us in support of the many organizations who oppose H.R. 857.

- A wide array of veterinary, horse industry, and agriculture groups have joined together in the fight against H.R. 857 to actively defeat this legislation.

American Association of Equine Practitioners	National Cattlemen's Beef Association
American Farm Bureau Federation	National Chicken Council
American Feed Industry Association	National Grain & Feed Association
American Meat Institute	National High School Rodeo Association
American Quarter Horse Association	National Milk Producers Federation
American Veterinary Medical Association	National Pork Producers Council
Animal Health Institute	National Turkey Federation
Animal Welfare Council	New Jersey Horse Council, Inc.
California Cattlemen's Association	New York State Horse Council, Inc.
Colorado Horse Council	North Carolina Horse Council
Colorado Outfitters Association	Ohio Horsemen's Council
Equine Nutrition and Physiology Society	Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association
Federation of Animal Science Societies	Oklahoma Grain & Feed Association
Grain & Feed Association of Illinois	Palomino Breeders of America
Horsemen's Council of Illinois	Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association
Indiana Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Assoc.	Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Assoc.
Iowa Agribusiness Alliance	United Egg Producers
Kansas Grain & Feed Association	U.S. Animal Health Association
Kentucky Quarter Horse Association	Utah Horse Council
Livestock Marketing Association	Utah State Quarter Horse Association
Michigan Horse Council	Wisconsin Horse Council
Missouri Equine Council, Inc.	

- If H.R. 857 were passed, unwanted horses are more likely to become neglected and abused by owners who lack the knowledge, financial resources and/or interest to care for them. If H.R. 857 passes, the existing U.S. horse infrastructure cannot absorb the large number of animals that this bill will affect or provide adequate treatment and humane care.
- The American Association of Equine Practitioners estimated that meeting a horse's basic needs costs \$1,825 annually, not including veterinary and farrier care bills. H.R. 857's enactment could result in a "potential funding requirement of \$100 million a year during the first year" to care for animals diverted from slaughter. Further estimates show that the potential economic effects for the care of unwanted horses would cost in excess of \$530 million a year by 2016. Where would the approximately 60,000 horses that would be diverted from slaughter go and who would pay for it? Would the horses end up sick and starving like the cats and dogs that have been abandoned?
- H.R. 857 does not establish standards of care that horse rescue facilities must meet in order to receive federal funds. Even the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), who supports the bill admits "equine shelters are less well-established than cat and dog shelters." Citing extreme costs and staff time needed to shelter horses, HSUS warned of "needing to be aware of distinctions between sheltering horses and sheltering other companion animals."

For these and many other reasons, we would strongly encourage you to oppose H.R. 857, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act.



Rep. Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman



Rep. Charles W. Stenholm  
Ranking Minority Member