

Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act (H.R. 693/S. 1007)

Protect Horses from Cruel Soring

The U.S. Senator Joseph D. Tydings Memorial PAST Act, H.R. 693/S.1007, was introduced in the House by U.S. Reps. Kurt Schrader (D-OR), Ted Yoho (R-FL), Steve Cohen (D-TN), Ron Estes (R-KS), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), & Chris Collins (R-NY), and in the Senate by U.S. Sens. Mike Crapo (R-ID), Mark Warner (D-VA), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Pat Toomey (R-PA), Edward Markey (D-MA), Susan Collins (R-ME), Diane Feinstein (D-CA), Bob Casey (D-PA), Steve Daines (R-MT), & Ron Wyden (D-OR).

What Does the PAST Act Do?

The PAST Act would make needed reforms to end the torturous “soring” of horses by ending the failed system of industry self-policing, banning the use of large stacked shoes and ankle chains (devices associated with soring), strengthening penalties, and making it illegal to sore a horse for the purpose of showing or selling it.



What is “Soring”?

The abusive practice of “soring” is when morally bankrupt trainers intentionally inflict pain on a Tennessee Walking Horse’s hooves and legs to force the horses to perform an exaggerated, high-stepping gait to obtain an unfair advantage at horse shows. Caustic chemicals are applied, and plastic wrap is used to cook the chemicals directly into the horse’s flesh for several days. Chains are attached to strike the wounds, and screws and nails are driven into the sensitive tissue of their hooves with the purpose of causing pain that will cause the horses to raise their legs and perform the exaggerated gait. These horses are subjected to constant severe pain.

Why Support the PAST Act?

The Current System of Industry Self-Policing is Unacceptable

Congress enacted the Horse Protection Act of 1970 to make the practice of soring illegal, but it is insufficient to protect horses. As part of the industry-run enforcement system, Horse Industry Organizations (HIOs) are authorized to train their own inspectors to inspect horses for soring at shows. But these inspectors are employees of the show organizations and often exhibit Tennessee Walking Horses themselves, allowing soring to continue. Prosecutions are rare, and an analysis of violations show that even when citations are issued few result in actual suspensions. In 2010, the USDA Inspector General exposed the industry and recommended stronger penalties and eliminating self-policing.

Veterinarians, Horse Groups, and Law Enforcement Support the PAST Act

The PAST Act is supported by the American Veterinarian Medical Association, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, the American Horse Council, veterinary medical associations from all 50 states, numerous horse organizations across the country, animal protection organizations, and the National Sheriff’s Association, along with over 300 Members of Congress. These industry stakeholders and legislators recognize that soring is cruel and must end.