

Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act (H.R. 961/S.2006)

Protect American Horses from Slaughter

H.R. 961 is led by Reps. Jan Schakowsky & Vern Buchanan;

S. 2006 is led by Sens. Bob Menendez & Lindsey Graham

What Does the SAFE Act Do?

The SAFE Act would prevent horse slaughter plants from opening in the U.S. and end the current export of horses abroad for slaughter for human consumption. No domesticated animal had a greater impact on the settlement of our nation than the horse. We betray that bond by slaughtering tens of thousands of perfectly healthy horses for export to the few nations in the world where eating horses still occurs.



Why Support the SAFE Act?

Horse Slaughter is Inherently Cruel and Opposed by the Public

Horse slaughter is in no way “humane.” It is a cruel and terrifying end for the horses that become victims of this enterprise. Horses are transported long distances to slaughter plants without food, water, or rest and become seriously injured or die during the journey. The methods used to kill horses are not quick and painless. Horses are naturally skittish animals and endure numerous blows to the head before being slaughtered. When plants previously operated in the U.S. prior to closure in 2007, the USDA documented serious cruelty violations and horses with broken bones and terrifying eye injuries. Polling shows that 80% of the American public opposes this practice – democrat and republican alike.

Taxpayer Dollars Shouldn't be Wasted on Cruelty

Millions of taxpayer dollars would be wasted to inspect horsemeat if horse slaughter plants re-open in the U.S. – and all for a product that Americans don't consume. Congress should be focused on fiscal responsibility, and taxpayers shouldn't foot the bill to fund a new program to slaughter horses and prop up an abhorrent foreign-driven enterprise.

Horsemeat Poses Food Safety Dangers to People

American horses are not raised for human consumption and receive numerous unregulated toxic substances over the course of their lives. Phenylbutazone, known as horse aspirin, can cause potentially fatal human diseases and there is no known safe level for drug residues for this substance. Horses can live 30 years or more and are gathered from random sources. There is no system in place to track what substances a horse has been given over its lifespan. Due to the food safety concerns associated with horsemeat, the European Union suspended horsemeat imports from Mexico – where 87% of horses that are slaughtered for export to the EU are of U.S. origin. EU authorities specifically cited the lack of traceability of horses and horrific suffering in the slaughter pipeline both in the U.S. and Mexico.