



July 12, 2023

404 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Braun:

This letter is in support of efforts to pass Senate Bill 1529, *Fighting Inhumane Gambling and High-Risk Trafficking Act*, and its House companion, H.R. 2742, collectively known as the FIGHT Act. As a former turkey farmer and with your position on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, you have a unique understanding of the risks posed by these activities, and an informed, persuasive voice in the conversation.

Since 1875, the Indiana State Poultry Association (ISPA) has promoted and guided the poultry industry. Indiana leads the nation in duck production; is 2nd in egg production and the production of egg-laying chickens; 4th in turkey production; and has a growing broiler chicken industry as well. Our organization represents over 95% of the state's poultry production, and is overseen by a Board of Directors representing the expanse of Indiana's industry. As the Official State Agency for the National Poultry Improvement Plan in the State of Indiana, the ISPA is charged with supporting avian disease testing and tracking; facilitating safe, responsible movement of poultry within and across borders; and evaluating compliance of commercial poultry producers with biosecurity requirements.

Animal fighting fosters environments that pose significant risks to avian health with increased potential to spread and exacerbate disease incidents. It undermines avian disease regulatory programs in which commercial and non-commercial poultry owners alike invest significant time and resources to protect their own flocks and those of their neighbors. Ensuring the health and welfare of our birds is our highest responsibility, and these types of activities go against all mores of the treatment of the animals in our care.

The amendments to the Animal Welfare Act proposed by the FIGHT Act will provide critical enforcement tools to further limit and discourage these activities which will protect our flocks and safeguard our communities. We strongly encourage your support for this effort.

Sincerely,

President

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