

Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act H.R. 1661

The Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act seeks to ban the slaughter of horses for human consumption both within the United States and abroad, specifically targeting live exports of horses to Canada and Mexico. This legislation is a response to the alarming findings of a national investigation conducted by the Center for a Humane Economy, which shed light on the inhumane practices associated with the horse slaughter industry.

- **Decline in Slaughter Numbers.** The horse slaughter industry has witnessed a significant decline over the years, with the number of American horses slaughtered annually dropping by over 90% since 1990 and 75% since 2010. This decline has not resulted in increased abandonment or cruelty, as indicated by animal welfare groups' tracking data.
- **Exposing Inhumane Practices.** The investigative report highlights the gross mistreatment of horses destined for slaughter. Animals experience neglect and suffering throughout the process, from transport to holding pens and slaughter plants. Injured horses are left untreated, and unsanitary conditions lead to the spread of contagious diseases.
- **Food Safety Concerns.** The decline in foreign markets' import of horse meat is attributed to concerns about drug residues in carcasses, impacting food safety. Foreign markets have scaled back imports due to these risks, further questioning the necessity of horse slaughter.
- **Lack of Justification.** With approximately 20,000 horses shipped for slaughter to Canada and Mexico in 2022, the notion that horse slaughter serves as a necessary outlet to manage unwanted horses is debunked. Only 3% of the 500,000 horses dying annually find their end-of-life outcome through slaughter.



Sponsors include Jan Schakowsky, Vern Buchanan, Troy Carter, Brian Fitzpatrick, Bob Menendez, and Lindsey Graham.

- The Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act aims to put an end to the inhumane treatment of American horses for human consumption both domestically and abroad. The findings of the Center for a Humane Economy's investigation underscore the urgent need for this legislation, as it aligns with the principles of compassion, food safety, and responsible animal welfare.

Please see our full investigative [report here](#).

Tell your legislators to support a ban on the transportation of horses for slaughter [here](#)