



Idaho Sheriffs' Association

3100 S. Vista Avenue, Suite 203

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(208) 287-0001

www.idahosheriffs.org

Dear Esteemed Members of Idaho Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the Idaho Sheriffs' Association, I write to express our strong support for three complementary pieces of bipartisan legislation addressing organized animal fighting: the Animal Cruelty Enforcement (ACE) Act (H.R. 1477), the Fighting Inhumane Gambling and High-Risk Trafficking (FIGHT) Act (H.R. 3946/S. 1454), and the No Flight, No Fight Act (H.R. 7371). Together, these measures provide a comprehensive federal strategy to prevent, investigate, and disrupt the criminal enterprises that profit from animal fighting.

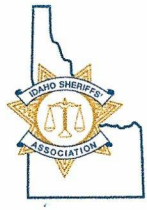
Animal fighting is always comingled with illegal gambling and tax evasion and very commonly to money laundering, narcotics trafficking, illegal firearms, and human violence. This toxic mix of criminal conduct threatens public safety and may place law enforcement officers at risk when they interdict perpetrators involved in illegal animal fighting ventures. Federal policy already recognizes that these enterprises operate across state and international boundaries and require strong coordination between local, state, and federal authorities, and the three measures we endorse all enhance enforcement capacity and allow federal, state, and local police to dismantle these crime networks.

Recent events underscore the urgency of this issue. In March 2026 in Parma a major cockfighting operation was discovered during the arrest of a violent illegal immigrant. Such cases illustrate the scale and brutality of these operations and the challenges officers face in stopping them.

The three bills before Congress address different but interconnected gaps in enforcement.

- The ACE Act would establish a dedicated section within the Department of Justice to ensure federal animal cruelty laws are consistently investigated and prosecuted.

- The FIGHT Act would strengthen federal enforcement tools to address in-person and on-line gambling, enhance penalties through criminal forfeiture of fighting arenas and



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other tools of the trade, and stop the shipments of tens of thousands of birds through the U.S. Postal Service. The private right of action in the FIGHT Act is very narrow and provides no monetary incentive for a plaintiff. The entire purpose of that provision is for a private citizen to win a federal court order to shut down a dog fighting or cockfighting ring if there is overwhelming evidence that such an operation exists.

- Finally, the No Flight, No Fight Act would help stop the international trafficking of animals by foreign-based commercial airlines with flights originating in the U.S. and then using their cargo holds to ship fighting animals to the Philippines, Vietnam, Mexico, and other nations where there is demand for these spectacles of cruelty.

From a law enforcement perspective, these measures work together to create a stronger and more coordinated response. They improve investigative capacity, strengthen deterrence, and help disrupt trafficking pipelines that move animals across state lines and international borders.

Importantly, they also reinforce the partnership between federal authorities and local sheriffs' offices that are often the first to encounter these crimes.

The Idaho Sheriffs' Association respectfully urges you to cosponsor and support the ACE Act, the FIGHT Act, and the No Flight, No Fight Act. Taken together, these bills represent a balanced and practical approach to addressing organized animal fighting while protecting communities and supporting the law enforcement officers tasked with combating these crimes.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to public safety.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff A. Lavey".

Jeff A. Lavey
Executive Director