



June 16, 2026

The Honorable Sarah Elfreth
Elfreth for Congress
P.O. Box 5935
Annapolis, MD 21403

Dear Congresswoman Elfreth:

On behalf of Animal Wellness Action (AWA), a national policy and political organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing legal protections for animals, we are pleased to endorse your candidacy in the June 23, 2026, Democratic Primary Election for Maryland's 3rd Congressional District.

Your record in Congress demonstrates a clear commitment to animal welfare, wildlife conservation, and the principle that Congress should not undermine state laws adopted by voters to protect animals.

We particularly appreciate your opposition to [the Farm, Food, and National Security Act, H.R. 7567](#), which included a provision to repeal key state farm animal welfare laws. H.R. 7567 also omitted several bipartisan animal welfare measures, including provisions to end horse slaughter exports (the SAFE Act) and strengthen enforcement against organized animal fighting enterprises (the FIGHT Act).

You flagged your opposition to the repeal of the farm animal welfare laws by joining 182 House Democrats who urged congressional leaders to reject its inclusion in the Farm Bill. The proposal would have overturned state laws approved by millions of voters to establish humane standards for the treatment of farm animals and would have weakened the authority of states to regulate agricultural products sold within their borders.

We also commend your vote against the Riley Moore amendment ([House Roll Call Vote 149](#)) during floor consideration of the Farm bill. That amendment sought to punch a hole in the Greyhound Protection Act by creating an exemption allowing commercial greyhound racing to continue in West Virginia – the only state with live greyhound racing. Your vote helped preserve federal protections against an industry long associated with careless treatment of the dogs.

We also appreciate your votes against Rep. Lauren Boebert's legislative effort, [H.R. 845](#), to strip federal protection for gray wolves from the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA) and [H.R. 556](#), which would restrict federal agencies from addressing the well-documented harms caused by lead ammunition and tackle to wildlife. Those votes demonstrated a commitment to science-based wildlife conservation and responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

Your support for America's horses is further reflected in your cosponsorship of [the Save America's Forgotten Equines \(SAFE\) Act, H.R. 1661](#), legislation that would permanently prohibit horse slaughter in the United States and end the export of horses for slaughter abroad. This remains one of the most important animal protection measures before Congress.

We do hope you'll take a serious look at a set of anti-cruelty bills, the FIGHT Act, [H.R. 3946](#); the No Flight No Fight Act, [H.R. 7371](#); and the Animal Cruelty Enforcement Act, [H.R. 1477](#). These are all bipartisan, broadly supported by the American law enforcement and animal welfare communities.

A profound respect for the humane treatment of animals is a core value shared by Americans across the political spectrum. How we treat animals is a powerful reflection of our character as a society, and evidence consistently shows that acts of animal cruelty are frequently linked with broader patterns of violence and antisocial behavior that threaten public safety. By standing against these abuses, you are helping to make communities safer for families and children while upholding fundamental standards of common decency.

We are grateful for your leadership and your willingness to take principled stands on behalf of animals and the rule of law.

Taken together, these actions reflect a consistent record of standing up for animals, wildlife, and humane public policy. For these reasons, Animal Wellness Action is proud to endorse your candidacy in the June 23 Democratic primary and looks forward to continuing our work with you in Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne Pacelle".

Wayne Pacelle
President
Animal Wellness Action