

Colorado District Attorneys' Council

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July 13, 2026

Dear Esteemed Members of Colorado's Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the Colorado District Attorneys' Council – elected prosecutors who cover all 64 counties in our state – we write to ask you to work to advance three anti-cruelty bills. They are 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 bills provide a comprehensive federal strategy to prevent, investigate, and dismantle organized animal fighting operations while strengthening public safety and supporting law enforcement efforts at every level of government.

Animal cruelty crimes are crimes of violence, and these investigations routinely uncover connections to illegal gambling, narcotics trafficking, money laundering, illegal firearms, violent crime, and other forms of organized criminal activity. These operations often stretch beyond state jurisdictional boundaries and require significant federal law enforcement and prosecutorial resources. This is why we pay such close attention to these federal policy proposals.

Colorado has experienced these challenges firsthand. For example, in early 2026, authorities uncovered a large-scale cockfighting operation, resulting in the rescue of dozens of roosters and the discovery of evidence consistent with organized animal fighting activity. They also found illegal narcotics and large amounts of cash. Cases such as this demonstrate that animal fighting remains an active criminal enterprise in Colorado and throughout the United States. These operations frequently involve participants traveling across state lines, coordinated communications networks, and substantial illegal financial activity.

The three bills before Congress address different but interconnected challenges:

- **The ACE Act, H.R. 1477**, would establish a dedicated Animal Cruelty Crimes section within the U.S. Department of Justice, helping ensure that federal animal fighting and animal cruelty laws are consistently investigated and prosecuted.
- **The FIGHT Act, H.R. 3946/S. 1454**, would strengthen federal enforcement tools by addressing gambling connected to animal fighting, expanding criminal forfeiture authority, and providing additional mechanisms to disrupt the infrastructure that sustains these criminal enterprises.
- **The No Flight, No Fight Act, H.R. 7371**, would strengthen enforcement efforts against the illegal trafficking of fighting birds by air carriers, closing a loophole that traffickers have exploited to move fighting animals across the country and internationally.

As prosecutors charged with protecting the public and upholding the law, we believe Congress should provide law enforcement and prosecutors with every reasonable tool available to combat organized criminal enterprises. The ACE Act, FIGHT Act, and No Flight, No Fight Act represent practical, bipartisan solutions that will strengthen public safety, support criminal

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OFFICER



investigations and prosecutions, and help dismantle networks that profit from cruelty, violence, and illegal activity.

We respectfully urge you to cosponsor and advance these important measures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Dotter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessica Dotter
Executive Director
Colorado District Attorneys' Council