

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 503

To amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2005

Mr. SWEENEY (for himself, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mrs. BONO, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. COX, Mrs. CAPPs, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. SHAYS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON SHIPPING, TRANSPORTING,**  
2 **MOVING, DELIVERING, RECEIVING, POS-**  
3 **SESSING, PURCHASING, SELLING, OR DONA-**  
4 **TION OF HORSES AND OTHER EQUINES FOR**  
5 **SLAUGHTER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Horse Protection  
7 Act (15 U.S.C. 1821) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3),  
9 and (4) as paragraphs (2), (3), (5), and (6), respec-  
10 tively;

11 (2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so re-  
12 designated, the following new paragraph:

13 “(1) The term ‘human consumption’ means in-  
14 gestion by people as a source of food.”; and

15 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3), as so re-  
16 designated, the following new paragraph:

17 “(4) The term ‘slaughter’ means the killing of  
18 one or more horses or other equines with the intent  
19 to sell or trade the flesh for human consumption.”.

20 (b) FINDINGS.—Section 3 of the Horse Protection  
21 Act (15 U.S.C. 1822) is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through  
23 (5) as paragraphs (6) through (10), respectively;

24 (2) by adding before paragraph (6), as so reded-  
25 icated, the following new paragraphs:

1           “(1) horses and other equines play a vital role  
2           in the collective experience of the United States and  
3           deserve protection and compassion;

4           “(2) horses and other equines are domestic ani-  
5           mals that are used primarily for recreation, pleasure,  
6           and sport;

7           “(3) unlike cows, pigs, and many other animals,  
8           horses and other equines are not raised for the pur-  
9           pose of being slaughtered for human consumption;

10          “(4) individuals selling horses or other equines  
11          at auctions are seldom aware that the animals may  
12          be bought for the purpose of being slaughtered for  
13          human consumption;

14          “(5) the Animal and Plant Health Inspection  
15          Service of the Department of Agriculture has found  
16          that horses and other equines cannot be safely and  
17          humanely transported in double deck trailers;”;

18          (3) by striking paragraph (8), as so redesign-  
19          ated, and inserting the following new paragraph:

20          “(8) the movement, showing, exhibition, or sale  
21          of sore horses in intrastate commerce, and the ship-  
22          ping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving,  
23          possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation in intra-  
24          state commerce of horses and other equines to be

1       slaughtered for human consumption, adversely affect  
2       and burden interstate and foreign commerce;”.

3       (c) PROHIBITION.—Section 5 of the Horse Protection  
4 Act (15 U.S.C. 1824) is amended—

5           (1) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through  
6       (11) as paragraphs (9) through (12), respectively;  
7       and

8           (2) by inserting after paragraph 7 the following  
9       new paragraph:

10           “(8) The shipping, transporting, moving, deliv-  
11       ering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or  
12       donation of any horse or other equine to be slaugh-  
13       tered for human consumption.”.

14       (d) AUTHORITY TO DETAIN.—Section 6(e) of the  
15 Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1825(e)) is amended—

16           (1) by striking the first sentence of paragraph  
17       (1);

18           (2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2)  
19       and as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

20           (3) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so re-  
21       designated, the following new paragraph:

22           “(1) The Secretary may detain for examination, test-  
23       ing, or the taking of evidence—

24           “(A) any horse at any horse show, horse exhi-  
25       bition, or horse sale or auction which is sore or

1       which the Secretary has probable cause to believe is  
2       sore; and

3               “(B) any horse or other equine which the Sec-  
4       retary has probable cause to believe is being shipped,  
5       transported, moved, delivered, received, possessed,  
6       purchased, sold, or donated in violation of section  
7       5(8).”.

8       (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
9       12 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1831) is  
10      amended by striking “\$500,000” and inserting  
11      “\$5,000,000”.

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