



A M E R I C A N
H O R S E C O U N C I L

September 20, 2022

The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.
Chair, Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member, Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Pallone and McMorris Rodgers:

We are pleased that the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act (H.R. 5441) is slated for a markup Wednesday, September 21st in the Energy and Commerce Committee. **The American Horse Council respectfully requests your support of H.R. 5441.**

The American Horse Council requests passage of H.R. 5441 as a measure to strengthen the Horse Protection Act, a federal law that prohibits the practice of “soring” practices. Soring involves irritating or blistering a horse’s forelegs by either chemical or mechanical devices to achieve an exaggerated gate. Soring is illegal under the Horse Protection Act, but the practice continues. H.R. 5441 provides a reasonable and transparent protocol for inspecting horses. It removes conflicts of interest found in the current system by directing the United States Department of Agriculture to license and deploy trained, independent inspectors to check for evidence of soring. In addition, the bill instructs for the use of scientifically recognized methods of testing to include palpitation, which were found to be valid by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in 2021 after a comprehensive 16-month.

This bill is a commonsense and targeted proposal. It is based on existing law to enhance the care and welfare of a specific group of horses within breed competitions and commerce of Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses, and Spotted Saddle Horses.

The PAST Act is endorsed by stakeholders, including the American Horse Council, U.S. Equestrian Federation, American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, the state veterinary organizations of all fifty states, National Sheriffs' Association, and Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.

We now ask for your support. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie M. Broadway, CAE ®
President | American Horse Council & AHC Foundation