



## United States Harness Racing Alumni Association

January 14, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2322-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Janice Schakowsky  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection  
& Commerce  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Consumer Protection  
& Commerce  
Committee on Energy & Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2322-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, Chairwoman Schakowksy and Ranking Member McMorris:

The United States Harness Racing Alumni Association, a member of the Coalition for Horse Racing Integrity, strongly supports and endorses the Horseracing Integrity Act of 2019 as a priority bill for passage in the 116<sup>th</sup> Session of Congress.

We believe that the Horse Racing Integrity Act of 2019, H.R. 1754, as it is written, is critical to the sustainability and survival of our sport of harness racing.

For too long, the harness racing industry has failed to resolve the problems created by the use, extra-label use, or overuse of performance and other legal or illegal drugs on Standardbred race horses by some trainers and owners. Along with the detrimental effects on the horse, doping of horses within the industry damages the competitiveness of the sport, and sullies our reputation. The American public, including horse racing fans who wager on races, are no longer willing to look the other way but instead demand our response.

The Horseracing Integrity Act of 2019 would encourage the adoption of a national, uniform standard for drugs and medication in American horse racing, and the granting of rulemaking, testing and

enforcement oversight to an entity created by a private, non-profit, self-regulatory organization known as the Horseracing Anti-Doping and Medication Control Authority. The legislation would transition the current varying state-by-state medication rules and testing to higher standards that are uniform among states and that would align with world racing standards. Stiffer penalties applied to clear standards would make a significant difference in the proliferation of doping occurrences. This effort will also result in a safer sport for jockeys, drivers, and horses.

This bill as our response can change the course of history to a more promising, more sustaining future for horse racing.

Respectfully,

Freddie Hudson  
*Executive Director*  
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