

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky, Chairwoman
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 2020

Dear Chairwoman Schakowsky and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers,

As a supporting member of the Water Hay Oats Alliance (WHOA) as well as the former CEO and President of both the Association of Racing Commissioners International (ARCI) and the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA), I want to lend my strong support to H.R. 1754, the Horseracing Integrity Act.

The two organizations I once led, ARCI and the HBPA, argue that individual states--not the federal government--should regulate racing. However, states have been ineffective in eliminating performance-enhancing drugs in racing. In 1982, David Pryor, a United States Senator from Arkansas, introduced the Corrupt Horseracing Practices Act. A Senate hearing on May 26 of that year attracted leaders of virtually every group in racing. Most of those who testified urged Pryor to let the states fix the problem, that it would be an unnecessary expense to involve the federal government. I was part of that group as executive director of the HBPA, representing 55,000 owners and trainers of Thoroughbred racehorses. The bill failed to pass and 36 years later, our industry continues to have a problem with performance-enhancing drugs.


The Pryor bill had three primary provisions: First, it would require pre-race testing of all horses; second, it would ban the race-day use of all drugs, including Butazolidin and Lasix; and third, it would prohibit the icing, numbing or freezing of all horses prior to a race. "The most important objective of the legislation," Senator Pryor stated, "is to turn the current patchwork of state medication rules and regulations into one single, enforceable, uniform standard."

Sound familiar?

The late Penny Chenery, who bred, owned and raced the great Secretariat, was among the witnesses who testified at the Senate hearing in 1982. She said: "What I am for--what every Thoroughbred breeder in America is striving to do...is to breed sound horses that can race on courage..."

I have worked in racing for over half a century, as a writer, administrator, racetrack president, and president of an international body of racing commissioners. I helped write the Interstate Horse Racing Act of 1978, which legalized simulcasting of races and off-track betting across state lines. The bill has produced millions of additional dollars for racetrack owners, horse owners, trainers and jockeys. It is proof that federal legislation can assist the horseracing industry in attaining the high standards it seeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Anthony Chamblin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

R. Anthony Chamblin
Supporting Member of the Water Hay Oats Alliance
President and CEO, Association of Racing Commissioners International (1986-2001)
Member, Board of Directors of the International Conference of Racing Authorities (1986 -2001)
Editor, The Breeders' Cup Magazine (1983 – 1986)
President and CEO, Finger Lakes Race Track (1983-1986)
President and CEO, National Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (1973-1983)
Editor and Publisher, Horseman's Journal Magazine (1965-1983)

Lexington, Kentucky
tonychamblin@aol.com

859.608.6508

cc:

Congressman Larry Bucshon, Congressman Michael C. Burgess, Congressman Tony Cardenas, Congressman Earl L. "Buddy" Carter, Congresswoman Kathy Castor, Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, Congressman Greg Giantforte, Congressman Brett Guthrie, Congressman Richard Hudson, Congresswoman Robin L. Kelly, Congressman Robert E. Latta, Congressman Ben Ray Lujan, Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui, Congressman Jerry McNerney, Congressman Tom O'Halleran, Congressman Frank Pallone, Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester, Congressman Bobby Rush, Congressman Darren Soto, Congressman Fred Upton, Congressman Marc A. Veasey, Congressman Greg Walden