



The Honorable Jan Schakowsky  
Chairwoman  
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: OPPOSITION TO HR1754**

Dear Madame Chairwoman Schakowsky and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

While AQHA strongly supports uniformity in the horse racing industry, it is unable to support the current version of the introduced legislation.

On March 14, 2019, Congressman Andy Barr (R-KY) and Paul Tonko, (D-NY) introduced the Horseracing Integrity Act of 2019 to the House of Representatives. In summary, the bill requires "a uniform anti-doping and medication control program to be developed and enforced by an independent Horseracing Anti-Doping and Medication Control Authority."

Of particular concern is the welfare of racehorses if there is an elimination of the race-day medication, Lasix. The use of Lasix has been endorsed by several equine groups and the American Association of Equine Practitioners to help mitigate the occurrence of exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage (EIPH) in racehorses. If the industry loses this effective therapeutic medication while lacking an alternative therapy to control EIPH, we are concerned that the legislation would be responsible for leaving our equine athletes vulnerable to serious medical conditions.

AQHA is committed to the welfare of the racehorse. We continue to work with international, national and state racing organizations and commissions to evaluate protocols that allow for uniform medication rules and strengthened deterrents to performance-enhancing drugs.

AQHA works with the Association of Racing Commissioners International and the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium in these endeavors. The Association has helped implement recent industry movements that include out-of-competition testing and the use of hair as a testing mechanism.

Among other concerns, current regulation allows for breed-specific rules that address the individual needs of the American Quarter Horse. There is no such language in HR1754. Additionally, the bill is lacking details about funding sources that will sustain the proposal.

AQHA appreciates the opportunity to present our reasons for opposing HR1754. We welcome your inquiries on this matter.

Most Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Craig Huffhines in black ink.

Craig Huffhines  
First Vice President  
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Handwritten signature of Janet VanBebber in black ink.

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