



# Horses In Our Hands

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<https://www.horsesinourhands.org/>

May 24, 2022

The Honorable Janice D. Schakowsky  
Chair Subcommittee on Consumer  
Protection and Commerce  
U.S House of Representatives  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6115

The Honorable Gus M. Bilirakis  
Ranking Member Subcommittee on  
Consumer Protection and Commerce  
U.S House of Representatives  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6115

Distinguished Chair Schakowsky and Ranking Member Bilirakis,

My name is Siri Lindley. Both my wife, Rebekah, and I are World Champion athletes turned animal advocates. We co-founded Believe Ranch and Rescue our non-profit 501©3 saving horses from slaughter and Horses in Our Hands our 501©4 a lobbying and education organization dedicated to passing the SAFE ACT (HR 3355) and banning the barbaric practice which is horse slaughter.

Horses are an American Icon. We have fought wars on their backs. They have carried across the frontiers. They have worked our ranches, rounded up our cattle, and been invaluable partners throughout the centuries.

Horses are powerful teachers, for they have no egos, they never lie, and they manifest unbridled compassion. The things we learn through working together with horses and witnessing how they live their lives, give us deeply powerful insights into how best to navigate life. They model relationships that demonstrate acceptance, kindness, tolerance, patience, justice, compassion, and forgiveness. Horses cause all of us to become better people, better friends, better parents, children, partners, and citizens.

In the last decade, it has become abundantly clear, the transformational healing power of the horse. Horses have an extraordinary ability to emotionally transform the lives of millions of men, women and children suffering from deep psychological wounds, PTSD, emotional and mental disabilities, Autism, Addiction, and anxiety.

Equine therapy has become one of today's most effective cutting-edge methods of healing.

Often, a last resort option that leads to the answer to many people's lifelong struggles.

Millions of these beautiful healers are brutally slaughtered each year. You may picture in your mind what slaughter means, a quick and painless death. This is far from the truth for horses.

Horses, regardless of the condition they are in, endure a long 2-5-day trip in an overcrowded trailer. No food, no water, and no place to move. Especially horrific are these trailer rides in the middle of summer. Horses die without water and oftentimes, they do not make it to the slaughterhouse alive. Many arrive in Mexico and Canada with broken legs, missing eyes or just having been beat to a pulp during this terrifying ride.

Once at the slaughterhouse, the terrified horses are beat on the back with metal rods, forced into a corral leading into the slaughterhouse where one by one their back legs are attached to a pulley. They are lifted into the air, hanging upside down. They receive a shot to the head or a machete to the spine, which does NOT kill them immediately. For over 5 minutes these horses are being dismembered ALIVE hemorrhaging blood that lands at the feet of the terrified horses next in line. The sounds within that house of terror would bring any human with a heart to their knees, witnessing this savage, barbaric torture of these beautiful American heroes.

When I rescued my first horse Savannah, I had never had horses before. In trying to create a relationship with her, I learned more about myself than I had in the previous 47 years of my life. Savannah showed me a bravery and courage inside of me that I could never imagine could exist. She changed me. I would never be the same me again.

In November 2019, I was diagnosed with a rare and most often, deadly, form of Acute Myeloid Leukemia. 2 years after my wife and I began our mission to give these beautiful animals a voice.

Savannah played a crucial role in my overcoming this deadly disease. Not only because of the purpose that gave power to my every breath, but she reminded me of who I am. You get to choose what is possible for you, what you are capable of and what any single circumstance will mean to you.

I made the decision to survive and to thrive. Every thought I had, every action I took, every decision I made was with that outcome in mind.

This would prove to be the hardest, toughest, most terrifying fight of my life. Bringing me to my knees daily. In my darkest moments I would seek refuge with the horses. Just sitting in the middle of the pasture soaking up the peacefulness, the acceptance, the calm of these beautiful beings.

Every time I would come inside from time with the horses, I had a sense of peace. Inner calm that allowed me to build up my mental and emotional strength that I needed more than ever.

Horses are our mirrors. They know exactly how we are feeling at any given moment. Thus, they know what we need in any given moment. Once you have earned the trust of the horses, and you trust them in return, they will give you exactly what you need, every single time.

After being in hospital, and away from home for over 2 months, I returned home to the ranch. I had fallen into deep depression. The fight for my life wearing me down and having no access to what always filled me up and gave me strength, the horses.

The moment I returned home; 25 pounds lighter than I am today. Weak and so very sick. I told my wife; I want to ride Savannah. She said “absolutely, not.” She is too powerful, too fast, too feisty, this is so dangerous.”

I understand horses and I understand Savannah. I knew she would protect me with her life.

I got on my horse, in the middle of spring, grass a foot high.

She didn't reach for the grass. She didn't move until I lightly pressed my heels to her body. She took the tiniest little steps. Slowly and patiently, knowing that in my state, that is all I could handle.

Each week, as I got stronger and stronger, her steps would get a bit bigger, a bit faster.

1 year post bone marrow transplant, having just been told I am cancer free, I mounted Savannah and before I even had my feet in the stirrups she took off. She was saying “mom, you are healthy now. I will no longer treat you like you are sick and fragile. I will show you every step of the way what you are capable of and what you can handle.”

This was the most powerful gift. If any of you are cancer survivors, it is often hard to break the feeling of being a patient. My horse showed me the way and led me to my full recovery to where I am now. Thriving together with her.

These horses were a crucial part of my triumph over Leukemia. This mission drove me to survive and defy all the odds.

Due to my experience in the healing power of horses. My wife and I decided to create our own equine therapy program for cancer patients, and survivors like me, for kids with disabilities, people with PTSD, autism, addiction, anxiety, and grief.

We have saved 186 horses from slaughter, most of whom have gone on to heal humans through these programs all around the country. It has come full circle.

As you can see horses have incredible healing powers.

They are NOT livestock. They have been our war heroes, our partners, our friends, our teachers, and our healers.

My wife and I are here, voices for these animals. Advocates not only for them but for every one of you.  
We need these animals, and they need us.

Horses deserve to be respected and treated with kindness and compassion after all they have done to serve humans. We cannot continue to discard them, forget their importance in American history, and intentionally torture them.

Please join your fellow committee members in Co-Sponsoring the SAFE ACT bill to end horse slaughter and finally get this bipartisan bill passed and through the house.

84% of Americans do NOT support the slaughter of these beautiful animals. No matter what political party, whether they live in a rural, suburban, or urban locale. We all agree the SAFE ACT MUST be passed.

Horses have been our heroes for centuries, now it is your turn. To saddle up, cosponsor the bill and get it passed through the house. You will truly be a hero not only for the horses but for every single human whose life is positively changed because of them.

Thank you! Thank you for listening to your heart. For doing what is right and for choosing to be our horses' hero.  
Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Siri Lindley and Rebekah Keat in black ink.

Siri Lindley

On behalf of Siri Lindley and Rebekah Keat  
Co Founders, In Our Hands Action Fund

## Horses In Our Hands Achievements

-Number of horses shipped to slaughter reduced by 65% from 65k in 2019 to 26k in 2022

-Over 84 million homes reached through our Ban Horse Slaughter Documentary and Commercial screened on PBS stations Nationwide.

-Over 9 million of engagement on social media platforms bringing awareness to this issue

-207 thousand letters sent to legislators via our website, to co-sponsor the Ban Horse Slaughter Bill (HR3355 S2732)

-216 Bipartisan Co-Sponsors

-500 meetings with legislators.

-40,000 Community members

-3746 letters sent to Newspaper Editors

-800,000 minutes of Horses in Our Hands Videos watched

-186 horses saved directly from the horse slaughter pipeline via our 501©3 Believe Ranch and Rescue.

-Celebrity sponsors: John-Paul DeJoria, Melissa Etheridge, Tony Robbins, Julianne Hough, Willie Nelson, Bo Derek, Kerri Kasem, Katherine Kelly Lang, Bonnie-Jill Laflin