

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger  
2245 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 16, 2018

Dear Congressman Kinzinger:

I am writing to inform you of my strong feelings against, H.R. 2651, the Horse Racing Integrity Act of 2017.

I am a thoroughbred race horse trainer who resides in your district. H.R. 2651 seeks to ban the therapeutic drug Lasix, or Furosemide. This drug is used in horses to control or prevent Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhages (EIPH), or "bleeding." Horses often experience EIPHS during intense exercise, such as during races.

Lasix is recognized as an effective, preventative treatment for "bleeding" in the lungs of horses, which is the reason its use is recognized by the North American Association of Racetrack Veterinarians and the American Association of Equine Practitioners as safe and effective. These veterinarians believe that the use of Lasix to treat "bleeders" is in the health and welfare interests of the animals.

As a constituent, I am respectfully requesting you to oppose H.R. 2651.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Reavis", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Michael Reavis  
36805 Irish Lane  
Custer Park, IL 60481





June 15, 2018

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger  
2245 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kinzinger:

Illinois horsemen, the owners and trainers of race horses, proudly reside and work throughout your northern Illinois congressional district. The undersigned horsemen groups responsible for advocating on behalf of horsemen racing at Arlington Park, Fairmount Park, and Hawthorne Race Course, write today to share our grave concern with the proposed Horse Racing Integrity Act of 2017, introduced as H.R. 2651.

Behind the guise of so-called reform, this measure would upend the careful balance of industry interests provided by the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 and would usurp local authority to regulate the sport of racing. Moreover, it would replace the current state regulatory system with one controlled by the federal government – putting in charge of that system individuals who know little to nothing about the racing industry or the health and welfare of the horse.

Stripping the Illinois Racing Board of its regulatory authority over a state-sanctioned and state-controlled business, and then shifting that power to a private entity appointed by the federal government as H.R. 2651 proposes to do, would subvert a state-based regulatory structure that has operated in 34 state racing jurisdictions around the country. Creating another layer of bureaucracy inevitably also would prompt the imposition of new fees and taxes to cover its cost. That financial burden would be passed along to Illinois horse owners and other small business owners throughout the sport of racing.

H.R. 2651 also would lead to a ban on race-day Lasix, the *only medication* scientifically proven to effectively decrease the incidence and severity of pulmonary bleeding in racing horses. Lasix, also called Furosemide, is recognized by the North American Association of Racetrack Veterinarians and the American Association of Equine Practitioners as safe and effective. Prohibiting Lasix, absent the existence of any alternative therapeutic medication

**Congressman Kinzinger**

**June 15, 2018**

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that can significantly reduce the risk of exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage, absolutely will jeopardize the health and lives of horses and jockeys.

Illinois horsemen have made significant contributions to promote and sustain the success of this industry. Our members have invested an estimated \$100 million in the race horses stabled at Arlington, Fairmount and Hawthorne. Additionally, we spend more than \$40 million annually to keep those horses trained. And every four or five years, we replace and replenish retiring horses (thereby re-investing another \$100 million).

Live horse racing supports the livelihood of horsemen and thousands of other workers at the tracks and throughout Illinois agribusiness, including backstretch workers, veterinarians, breeders, feed and hay suppliers, blacksmiths, gate crew workers, track management, track secretary and horse entry clerks, security personnel, truck operators, food vendors, tellers, construction workers and others.

Any measure that will exacerbate the regulatory and cost burdens will only harm those individuals and communities that depend on the continued financial health of Illinois horse racing. Accordingly, we respectfully urge you to oppose H.R. 2651 or any similar proposal.

We would be glad to discuss our concerns with this legislation, further illuminate the benefits provided by the horse racing industry to Illinois taxpayers, or answer any questions that you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact any or all of us. Contact information is included below. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



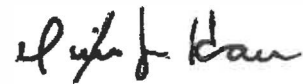
David McCaffrey,  
Executive Director  
Illinois Thoroughbred  
Horsemen's Association

Davidmc@itharacing.com  
847-577-6464



Tony Somone,  
Executive Director  
Illinois Harness Horsemen's  
Association

tsomone@harnessillinois.com  
630-323-0808



Dixie Harr,  
Secretary / Treasurer,  
Illinois Horsemen's  
Benevolent & Protective  
Association

hbpaofil@gmail.com  
618-345-7724



June 16, 2018

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger  
2245 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kinzinger:

As your constituents, my daughter and I are writing to inform you of our strong feelings against, H.R. 2651, the Horse Racing Integrity Act of 2017.

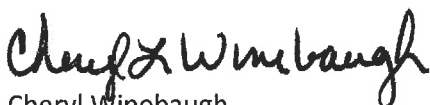
If enacted, H.R. 2651 would be significantly burdensome to the horse industry in that it would create a new, duplicative regulatory bureaucracy at the federal level, on top of an existing state regulatory structure that is operated in 34 state racing jurisdictions around the country. Moreover, it is likely that this new bureaucracy would create a new structure of fees and taxes to cover some of the federal costs of the new regulatory structure, and those fees and taxes would come from horse owners and the industry at-large.

In addition to the regulatory burdens noted above which would be created under H.R. 2651, the bill seeks to ban the drug Lasix, or Furosemide. This drug is used in horses to control or prevent Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhages (EIPH), or "bleeding." Horses often experience EIPHS during intense exercise, such as during races.

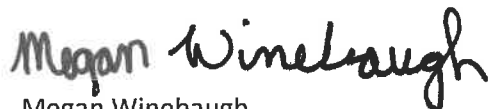
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According to a recent American Horse Council study, the horse racing industry contributes some \$36 billion annually to the national economy and provides about 240,000 direct jobs. Any measure which will add further regulatory and cost burdens will only harm those state and local economies that depend on the industry. Accordingly, we urge you to oppose H.R. 2651 or any identical or similar companion measure.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Winebaugh  
12172 W. 5000N Rd.  
Wilmington, IL 60481



Megan Winebaugh  
12172 W. 5000N Rd.  
Wilmington, IL 60481



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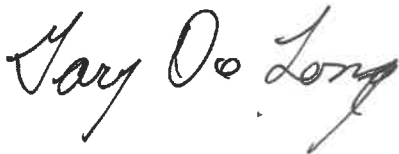
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Delong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "D".

Gary Delong  
10266 Boone McHenry County Line Rd.  
Marengo, IL 60152