

National Equine Legislation 2009

H.R. 503 Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009 (Previously 6598)

**Sponsors : Representatives John Conyers (D-MI), Dan Burton (R-IL)
60 Cosponsors**

Provisions:

- Criminalizes the possession , transport, sale, delivery, or receiving in interstate or foreign commerce of a horse or horse meat with the intent that it be used for human consumption.
- Applies to the transport and sale of horses for slaughter in the U.S. or to a foreign country.
- Penalties would include fines and/or one year imprisonment for a first offense or one involving five or fewer horses. Offenses involving more than five horses or repeat offenders would face increased fines and/or up to three years imprisonment.
- Former bill (H.R. 6598) required that the Attorney General shall provide for the humane placement or other humane disposition of any horse seized in connection with any offense under this section. **This bill no longer contains this requirement and makes no provision for seized horses.**

Impact:

- It does not protect the horse from suffering/starvation.
- 80 to 90 thousand unwanted horses per year will suffer neglect and abuse by owners unable to care for them.
- It eliminates an outlet for horses which are unable to perform or cannot be used.
- This bill takes away a “ personal property right” provided for under the U.S. Constitution. We should have a right to choose which option we want.
- It removes any opportunity in the future for a state to provide humane slaughter for our horses with proper controls, inspection, and regulation.
- There are no provisions for care of 80 to 90 thousand unwanted horses per year.

A revised sample letter is available on the website.