

Subject: H.R. 503, Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009

Dear Representative _____:

As a member of the Ohio Horseman's Council, Inc., I am requesting that you oppose the "Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009" (H.R. 503) sponsored by Representative Conyers of Michigan.

I oppose this for the following reasons:

- § Horses are livestock and humane treatment of horses can be provided in their final years, through properly regulated slaughter for human consumption in the United States, when they are unable to perform or cannot be used for various reasons.
- § It will lead to 80 to 90 thousand unwanted horses each year which will suffer neglect when owners are unable to care for them; horses would suffer starvation. This bill would eliminate any outlet for horse owners.
- § We do not believe the U.S. Government should take on the unwanted horse responsibility with our tax dollars.
- § This bill removes any opportunity in the future to provide humane, regulated slaughter of horses for human consumption in other states.

The Ohio Horseman's Council, Inc. joins the American Veterinary Medical Association, The American Quarter Horse Association, The American Association of Equine Practitioners, American Farm Bureau Federation, and the National Cattleman's Beef Association in opposing this legislation.

Please vote "no" on this legislation.

Respectfully,