

INTRODUCTION ON THE SENATE FLOOR OF S. 1176

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. *Graham*, Mr. *Akaka*, Mr. *Begich*, Mr. *Brown* of Massachusetts, Mr. *Carper*, Ms. *Collins*, Mrs. *Gillibrand*, Mr. *Kirk*, Mr. *Lautenberg*, Mr. *Levin*, Mr. *Lieberman*, Mr. *Menendez*, Ms. *Mikulski*, Mr. *Sanders*, and Mr. *Schumer*):

S. 1176. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I join my colleagues in introducing the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. This bill will prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption, a practice that the majority of Americans oppose and of which many are unaware. The last American horse slaughterhouses were closed in 2007, and there is virtually no demand for horse meat for human consumption in the United States. Unfortunately, tens of thousands of American horses are still being inhumanely transported to foreign processing plants, where they are brutally slaughtered.

Horses are domestic animals that have served men and women as loyal, hard working companions for thousands of years; and today, they are used primarily for recreation, pleasure, and sport. Horses differ from other livestock animals in that we do not raise them for the purpose of slaughter. We raise and train them to trust us, perform for us, and allow us on their backs. As such, they are entitled to a sense of human compassion, of which the practice of horse slaughter is void.

Throughout the development of this country, human consumption of horse meat has not been a widely accepted activity. This is undoubtedly due to the unique relationship enjoyed between mankind and horses for thousands of years. Horses were there in our work, on our farms, for transportation and communication in the taming of a vast American Frontier, and on every battlefield prior to World War II. They have proven their loyalty and nobility, and without them, the development of our country might not have been possible and at the least, would have been significantly more difficult. In modern time, horses provide joy and entertainment. Through racing, jumping, recreation, and even therapy to the disabled, horses touch the lives of many Americans. Clearly, they hold a special place in our culture, and it is for these reasons, that so many people are strongly opposed to horse slaughter in America.

Unfortunately, horse owners do have to face the realities of infirmity, age, or other reasons that may necessitate putting down their animal. However, this calls for humane euthanasia, and slaughter is simply not an appropriate alternative. The average cost for humane euthanasia and disposal is about the same as the cost of one month's care, so it is not unreasonable to expect horse owners to accept responsibility and incur this minor expense.

Additionally, because we do not raise horses with the intent to slaughter for human consumption, they are frequently treated with drugs not approved for use in animals raised for human consumption. These drugs can be toxic when ingested by humans. We have no system in the United States to track which medications a horse has received throughout its lifetime, and as such, American horse meat poses a food safety and export risk.

It is for all of these reasons that I am committed to ensuring that this bill is brought to the attention of all of our colleagues here in the Senate. I look forward to working with the senior Senator from South Carolina and others to address this important issue and pass a commonsense bill that reflects the desires of many of our constituents, who support the humane treatment of our horses and the prohibition of their slaughter for humane consumption.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the **RECORD**.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the **RECORD**, as follows:

S. 1176

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ``American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act of 2011''.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON SHIPPING, TRANSPORTING, MOVING, DELIVERING, RECEIVING, POSSESSING, PURCHASING, SELLING, OR DONATION OF HORSES AND OTHER EQUINES FOR SLAUGHTER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

(a) *Definitions.*--Section 2 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1821) is amended--

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (2), (3), (5), and (6), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

``(1) The term `human consumption' means ingestion by people as a source of food."; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

``(4) The term `slaughter' means the killing of 1 or more horses or other equines with the intent to sell or trade the flesh for human consumption.".

(b) *Findings.*--Section 3 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1822) is amended--

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(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as paragraphs (6) through (10), respectively;

(2) by adding before paragraph (6) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) the following:

``(1) horses and other equines play a vital role in the collective experience of the United States and deserve protection and compassion;

``(2) horses and other equines are domestic animals that are used primarily for recreation, pleasure, and sport;

``(3) unlike cows, pigs, and many other animals, horses and other equines are not raised for the purpose of being slaughtered for human consumption;

``(4) individuals selling horses or other equines at auctions are seldom aware that the animals may be bought for the purpose of being slaughtered for human consumption;

``(5) the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture has found that horses and other equines cannot be safely and humanely transported in double deck trailers;" and

(3) by striking paragraph (8) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)) and inserting the following:

``(8) the movement, showing, exhibition, or sale of sore horses in intrastate commerce, and the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation in intrastate commerce of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, adversely affect and burden interstate and foreign commerce;".

(c) *Prohibition.*--Section 5 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1824) is amended--

- (1) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (11) as paragraphs (9) through (12), respectively; and
- (2) by inserting after paragraph 7 the following:

“(8) The shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of any horse or other equine to be slaughtered for human consumption.”.

(d) *Authority to Detain.*--Section 6(e) of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1825(e)) is amended--

- (1) by striking the first sentence of paragraph (1);
- (2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) and as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and
- (3) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (2)) the following:

“(1) The Secretary may detain for examination, testing, or the taking of evidence--

“(A) any horse at any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction that is sore or that the Secretary has probable cause to believe is sore; and

“(B) any horse or other equine that the Secretary has probable cause to believe is being shipped, transported, moved, delivered, received, possessed, purchased, sold, or donated in violation of section 5(8).”.

(e) *Authorization of Appropriations.*--Section 12 of the Horse Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 1831) is amended by striking “\$500,000” and inserting “\$5,000,000”.

Source: The Library of Congress online at Thomas.gov