

November 14, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

As professional equestrians and devoted horse owners, we write to express our strong support for passage of a permanent ban on horse slaughter and to respectfully urge you to do everything in your power to ensure that such a ban is enacted into law before Congress adjourns this year. Although it is too late to save the thousands of horses already lost to the slaughter pipeline this year, each day without a ban in place dooms more of our beloved horses to the cruelty and terror of the killing floor.

Horse slaughter is a stain on the American horse industry, and it is wholly unnecessary. Options for at-risk horses are plentiful—they can find new careers as competitors, serve in law enforcement, provide equine therapy for American veterans and those with special needs, or simply offer companionship. Research published in 2017 revealed over 2.3 million American adults have the resources and willingness to adopt an equine in need. In 2019 there were close to 1,000 organizations in the U.S. that take in equines, with a daily capacity of over 47,000 animals. So far in 2022, fewer than 15,000 horses have been shipped abroad, down 92 percent since 2012, signaling a major slow-down in this industry and that capacity already exists to absorb horses in transition. In fact, legal horse slaughter has additional harmful impacts and puts horses at risk of neglect. At care centers in Oklahoma and Texas, the ASPCA found that 75 percent of owners keep horses beyond their ability to provide for them specifically because they fear their horses will wind up at the slaughterhouse.

The horrific images from USDA inspected horse slaughter plants that once operated in the U.S. clearly demonstrate that horse slaughter is a cruel betrayal of the trust horses place in us. As riders, we depend on the bond that we develop with our horses. We owe them nothing less than decency and protection to the very end.

Commercial slaughter is not a form of humane euthanasia. It is the antithesis of the dignified, humane release that these noble animals, who have given us so much, deserve when their quality of life is no longer viable. Top equine professionals, leaders in the horse racing industry, compassionate veterinarians and the overwhelming majority of Americans know the difference and they support a horse slaughter ban.

We urge you to honor the will of the 83 percent of Americans who strongly oppose horse slaughter for human consumption by passing a permanent ban *in this Congress*. Your leadership will help ensure that thousands of horses will get a second chance and that no horse owners and lovers, like us, will ever worry again about our horses meeting this gruesome end. You and your colleagues hold the power—please use it to save our horses.

**Congress must end horse slaughter once and for all. Now.** Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jessica Springsteen  
Anjelica Huston  
Bella Hadid  
Beth Behrs  
Betty Buckley  
Bonnie-Jill Laflin  
Booboo Stewart  
Carson Kressley  
Ciara Renee  
Katherine Kelly Lang  
Kerri Kasem  
Paloma Garcia Lee