



Oppose Senator Alexander’s Dangerous Horse Soring Proposal

Despite broad support from the public, Congress and equine stakeholder groups to end horse soring, lawmakers with ties to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry have for years fought tooth and nail to maintain or even weaken the system designed to prevent it. The recently announced proposal (that may be introduced as legislation or amendments) led by Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) is no exception.

What would the new Alexander soring proposal do?

Similar to other legislation that Senator Lamar Alexander has introduced on soring, the proposed bill would establish a weaker new system for identifying soring, continue to permit the use of “stacks” – devices that can be used to hide evidence of soring, limit penalties for violations, and turn over enforcement to a new commission that could be comprised of pro-soring industry officials.

Why does the ASPCA oppose the Alexander soring proposal?

If enacted, this bill would embolden horse-sorers and make the problem worse. Not only will these flaws allow soring to continue unabated, if enacted, these provisions would supplant other legislative or regulatory measures that are likely to progress. The timing and content of this proposal make clear that it is a ruse to block other efforts that would provide real protections against this cruel practice.

Which other groups oppose the Alexander proposal?

The vast majority of groups that support the [Prevent All Soring Tactics \(PAST\) Act](#) oppose this new proposal, including the American Association of Equine Practitioners, American Veterinary Medical Association, the Animal Welfare Institute, The Humane Society of the United States, The Humane Society Legislative Fund and the American Horse Council.

What does the ASPCA endorse?

The ASPCA is fighting to protect show horses through legislative and regulatory measures. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has the authority to strengthen the Horse Protection Program by implementing a rule finalized in 2016. We are hopeful that a new administration will make this a priority. The [Prevent All Soring Tactics \(PAST\) Act](#) has broad support from stakeholders and in Congress and passed the U.S. House earlier this year by a massive bipartisan vote of 333-96. With meaningful reform directly in our reach, we urge others to reject this dangerous proposal designed to thwart this progress and allow soring to continue.