



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

AARON D. KENNARD
Executive Director

April 22, 2014

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
United States Senate
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ayotte:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA), and the more than 3,000 elected sheriffs nationwide, I write to express our support for S. 1406, the "Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2013." By amending the Horse Protection Act (HPA), this act will help prevent the use of cruel practices against horses, specifically in regards to training methods such as soring and the use of harmful gait altering devices.

The horse industry is littered with cases of neglect and abuse, which the current self-policing system has failed to properly address. Certain breeds, such as the Tennessee Walking Horse, are too often harmed in the pursuit of achieving high-step gaits. The PAST Act seeks to address such concerns by prohibiting the practice of soring along with other harmful training methods, increasing the penalties for certain HPA violations, and implementing a new system of USDA licensed and trained horse inspectors.

Animal cruelty is too often ignored. However, law enforcement has increasingly become invested in trying to remedy this oversight, particularly in rural areas where many of our sheriffs' jurisdictions lie. With your proposed bill animal rights will be supported by granting greater protection for horses. Accordingly, the National Sheriffs' Association applauds the introduction of the "Prevent All Soring Tactics Act of 2013" and looks forward to working with you to pass this critical legislation during the 113th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron D. Kennard".

Sheriff (ret.) Aaron D. Kennard
Executive Director