

## **News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)**

Assistant to the Democratic Leader

Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget

US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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### **Spratt Statement on Horse Slaughter Prevention Act**

*WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) today issued the following statement on the Horse Slaughter Prevention Act, H.R. 857, which he has introduced with Rep. John Sweeney (R-NY).*

“The Horse Slaughter Prevention Act will raise awareness and stop the senseless and cruel slaughtering of horses in this country. Last year, over 42,000 horses were slaughtered here in the United States for human consumption abroad and tens of thousands more were transported across the border to Mexico and Canada for the same purpose. Pet horses, ex-racing horses, wild horses and work horses that served their owners well for years are being mistreated and then slaughtered to meet the European and Asian need for delicacy.

“As if the act of slaughtering wasn’t cruel enough, the actual journey to the slaughterhouses is at times even more inhumane. Sick and injured horses are beaten onto double-decker trailers designed for shorter-necked species like cattle and sheep and transported for hours and sometimes days without food or water. Stallions, mares and foals are all packed in together, making fighting, serious injury and even death commonplace. Once they arrive at the slaughterhouse, there is evidence to show that horses are often stunned improperly, thus still alive when they are slaughtered.

“Our bill would prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption as well as the sale, possession, and trade of horsemeat. Penalties for doing so would result in a fine of ‘not more than \$5,000 but not less than \$2500’ and/or jail time of no more than a year for each offense. The serious nature of these penalties reflects our resolve in ending the senseless act of animal cruelty.”

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