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FOSH Announces Its Support for AntiSoring Bill, SB 1121

Friends of Sound Horses (FOSH) announces strong support for the Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) bill introduced by Senators Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) and Mark Warner (D-VA) which provides stronger measures to fight the abuse of soring of Tennessee Walking Horses, Racking Horses and Spotted Saddle Horses.

Soring of horses is the cruel and deliberate infliction of chemical or mechanical pain upon a horse's hooves and limbs to create an unnatural, exaggerated, high stepping gait for the show ring. Soring is a major animal welfare issue that has been illegal for over forty years under the federal Horse Protection Act (HPA) yet the practice is still widespread in some show rings.

Such relief cannot arrive too soon. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released inspection results for the Walking Horse industry's most revered show, the National Celebration in Shelbyville, TN held in August each year. In 2014, the USDA and designated qualified persons (DQPs) combined found 219 violations in 1075 which is a stunning 20%.

In addition, the Celebration's own Veterinary Advisory Committee undertook random blood testing of competing horses, and 19 of the declared champions and reserve champions tested positive for drugs. At this time there has been no effort by Celebration management or the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders and Exhibitors Association (TWHBEA) to remove those titles from registrations of those horses that tested positive.

Since 1998, FOSH is the only national organization dedicated to the promotion of the sound gaited horse emotionally, mentally and physically; fair competition; and humane training and education regardless of breed or discipline. www.fosh.info

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