

## Support the Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act of 2015 (H.R. 3084)

The Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act was introduced by Congressmen Andy Barr (R-KY) and Paul Tonko (D-NY) on July 16, 2015. Bipartisan support for reform emerged several years ago after widely published media reports and subsequent Congressional testimony revealed that the sport of Thoroughbred racing was lacking uniform medication rules, drug-testing standards and penalties, to the detriment of horses, horsemen and fans.



*“There has been expressed concern, primarily among examining veterinarians and those who observe the industry, about whether the current medication practices are in the best interest of the horse.”*

*-Dr. Rick Arthur, Equine Medical Director  
of the California Horse Racing Board*



### The Problem

Despite its national and international scope, modern Thoroughbred racing is still being conducted under outdated state-by-state drug and medication rules. This causes risk to the horses running races; confusion for owners and trainers whose horses race across state lines; and inconsistency for bettors who want to be able to fairly evaluate horses. It's clear that when it comes to medication, the horse racing industry can't both promote and police the sport. It needs a national, independent, non-governmental organization like the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency to create and maintain a system that protects horses, horsemen and fans.

### The Facts

- Horseracing is a multibillion dollar industry, generating an estimated \$40 billion annually and 400,000 jobs.
- The U.S. leads the world in the rate of fatal racing injuries at 1.89 per 1,000 starts (measured over approximately 310,000 starts).
- There is an overuse of therapeutic medication that masks pain and enables an injured horse to race when rest and time off would be more appropriate.
- With a lack of out-of-competition testing, veterinarians and other racing officials have expressed concerns that pre-race exams at racetracks are compromised by the use of drugs that can disguise the unsoundness of a horse.
- On-track betting and interstate, off-track wagering are the financial engines of the horse racing industry.



## The Facts (continued)

- Many veterinarians, geneticists, regulatory officials and racing fans believe that America's practice of medicating horses is harmful to the Thoroughbred breed.
- Congress considered banning drugs in horseracing in 1980, but instead allowed each state to make its own decisions on drugs and horseracing. This has resulted in a patchwork of state laws that encourage trainers caught doping their horses to move from state to state and continue doping and racing their horses.

## The Solution

The Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act of 2015 will ensure equine welfare, protect the integrity of the sport and promote a sustainable Thoroughbred horse racing industry in the United States by granting independent control over rule-making, testing and enforcement oversight regarding drugs and medication to a new Authority created by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

USADA – the same agency recognized by Congress as the official anti-doping agency for the Olympic, Pan American and Paralympic sports in the United States – is a national, independent, non-governmental organization with a proven track record of creating uniform standards and science-based oversight to protect the rights of clean competitors and the integrity of competition.

The new Authority would be comprised of representatives of USADA and members of the Thoroughbred horseracing industry, and would be responsible for:

- developing, publishing, and maintaining rules regarding substances, methods, and treatments that may or may not be administered to Thoroughbred race horses;
- implementing programming related to anti-doping education, research, testing, and adjudication to prevent the racing of horses who have been so affected; and
- establishing uniform rules imposing sanctions, up to and including a lifetime ban from horseracing, for those who violate the rules.

The Act would require that horse racing associations and off-track betting operators recognize the jurisdiction and authority of the independent Authority as a condition of accepting, receiving or transmitting interstate wagers on horse races.

## Support for H.R. 3084

This legislation has been endorsed by The Jockey Club, the Breeders' Cup Ltd., the Water, Hay, Oats Alliance (WHOA), The Humane Society of the United States, the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders, the Consignors and Commercial Breeders Association, Meadowlands Racetrack, Tioga Downs, Vernon Downs, Arapahoe Park, the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, and many horse owners, track owners, and trainers.



## Myths and Facts Regarding the Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act

*Myth:* Adequate rules and enforcement already exist to prevent doping in horseracing.

*Fact:* There are no uniform rules to prohibit performance-enhancing drugs and penalize doping violations in horseracing. Almost all American Thoroughbreds are injected with race day medication, a practice banned by almost all other countries. Trainers can violate medication rules multiple times, seemingly with impunity.

*Myth:* This bill would create a new federal bureaucracy to regulate horseracing.

*Fact:* The Act places responsibility for the creation and enforcement of new nationwide rules with an independent, non-governmental oversight authority that may appoint state racing commissions to assist with enforcement. Funding for the anti-doping program mandated by the bill would come from industry, not the taxpayer.

*Myth:* The federal government has no place in horseracing.

*Fact:* Federal law already regulates interstate or “simulcast” racing for Thoroughbred, Standardbred (harness), and Quarter horses. This bill would establish a national anti-doping program, managed by an independent, non-governmental authority and would ensure a level playing field wherever interstate wagering on horse races is offered.

*Myth:* Horseracing groups can solve doping problems without federal legislation.

*Fact:* Industry groups and state commissions have promised reform for decades. However, since horseracing lacks a national league or commissioner to set and enforce rules, federal legislation that establishes an independent national oversight body charged with developing and enforcing uniform rules is the only viable way to ensure safety and integrity.

*Myth:* The bill could eliminate the use of beneficial drugs and veterinary care for race horses.

*Fact:* Nothing in the Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act of 2015 prohibits a racehorse from receiving therapeutic care or drugs. Horses should not race when needing such therapy - as doing so can lead to breakdowns, and puts at risk their safety and that of their riders.

