



MARYLAND  
**HORSE**  
COUNCIL

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*One Common Bond: The Horse*  
*One Common Voice: The Horse Council*

In the House Appropriations Committee, January 27, 2026

Testimony of the Maryland Horse Council on HB 228

Horse Racing - Prohibited Acts - Slaughter of Racehorses for Commercial Purposes

SUPPORT

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The Maryland Horse Council (MHC) is a membership-based trade association that represents the state-wide horse industry in Maryland. Our members include horse farms; horse related businesses; equestrian competitors; trainers; individual enthusiasts; equine-assisted therapy programs; and breed, interest, and discipline associations. We represent the interests of over 30,000 Marylanders who make their living with horses, or who just own and love them.

MHC was, we believe, the first horse council in the United States to take an official position against the slaughter of any horse. We understand this bill, as written, will apply to Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds, as well as Arabians and Quarter Horses, if they race, were bred or intended for racing, or produce racing stock.

We urge the Committee to give HB 228 a Favorable Report.

Respectfully submitted,

**THE MARYLAND HORSE COUNCIL**  
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