

Testimony for End Cruel Circus Acts in Maryland
Alyssa Dangel

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
SB547
SUPPORT

Good Evening Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

My name is Alyssa Dangel and I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 547.

Circus acts can be amazing. There can be acrobats, there can be ribbons, and exotic animals as well! However, those animals can be kept in inhumane conditions no creature should ever be put in. This is so cruel towards the poor animals and can also endanger humans. These circus acts don't always follow rules to stop public safety risks and have hurt people because of this. This bill will protect both animals and humans.

Most exotic animal exhibitors have violated the federal Animal Welfare Act. This means that they haven't given animals either proper veterinary care, food, or decent shelter. Often in these circus acts animals have none of those. The animals eat, and sleep; they live, in horrible, cramped conditions. Signs of extreme stress are often seen on these animals that barely see other creatures like them, forced to live with no social interactions, unable to live like they should, without expressing natural, and normal behaviors for them. They also live in unsanitary conditions, and without proper veterinary care, they often fall prone to illness. These animals are also impossible to return to the wild, as they have no idea how to act, or survive in nature. The best thing to do is to stop this cruelty before Circus acts harm and destroy the lives of more animals. This bill will stop that.

While these circus acts are obviously harmful and cruel to animals, they can also harm people. Animals like Elephants, Big Cats, and Primates can, and have run loose and injured people, especially children. Due to lack of proper spaces for these animals, and poor training, not to even mention the abuse, and trauma these animals face at the hands of humans, the animals will try to either escape from their handlers or escape from their cages. Once they escape they often hurt people, and themselves. The animals also can spread many diseases, like tuberculosis, and herpes b, because of the lack of veterinary care.

When so many animals are suffering, and dying, and humans are also being hurt this bill is necessary. Please vote in support of SB547. Thank you.