

**Testimony for Traveling Animal Acts - Prohibition  
Katherine Dangel**

**Environment and Transportation Committee  
HB379  
SUPPORT**

Good afternoon Chairman and members of the Committee,

My name is Katherine Dangel and I am here to testify on House Bill 379. This bill prevents the use of wild cats, non-human primates, bears, and elephants in moving circuses. I believe that this bill is necessary because of two main reasons.

The first is concern for the animal's physical health. There have been many examples of animals in these situations being mistreated or neglected. Some of these animals live in terrible conditions for years. Some are even taken from their natural homes in the wild and put into these circuses. They can be neglected from food and water, shelter, or necessary medical procedures. In 2019, an elephant named Beluah died after a urinary infection led to blood poisoning. Had she gotten the medical attention she needed, this wouldn't have happened.

Another concern is for the animals mental health. Many of the tricks that circus animals are forced to do are unnatural tricks. More times than not, these tricks are taught to animals through harsh punishments. Examples of these cruel punishments are beatings or constraining the animals. Or underfeeding them so when they comply, the food they receive when they do something correct is much more rewarding. One of the main tools used to beat animals, especially elephants, is a Bullhook. Bullhooks appear similar to a fireplace poker but are much sharper. These "tools" are classified as weapons.

In conclusion, many moving circuses with animals abuse, neglect, and mistreat animals. Circuses are supposed to be places where people go and have a good time and enjoy themselves. These are not supposed to be institutions of abuse and harm done to animals. To continue to prevent physical and psychological harm done to animals, please vote yes on House Bill 379.