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**SB 231 – FAVORABLE
Written Testimony in Support of SB 231
Maryland General Assembly**

Submitted by:

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I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 231**, legislation that would prohibit the sending of racehorses from Maryland to slaughter. I lead the Equine Protection program at Humane World for Animals and I am a Maryland resident.

SB 231 addresses a well-documented and deeply troubling gap in protections for Thoroughbred racehorses once their racing careers end. Too many horses are discarded into the slaughter pipeline when they are no longer competitive or economically useful. Maryland should not be complicit in a system that allows animals raised for sport to be sold for human consumption.

This issue is not hypothetical. **Just recently, three Thoroughbreds who had been racing until shortly before were discovered at a kill pen in Oklahoma**, awaiting shipment to slaughter. These were identifiable, recently raced horses whose presence in the slaughter pipeline underscores a hard truth: without enforceable safeguards, racehorses remain at constant risk of being sent to slaughter, even immediately after leaving the track.

SB 231 makes clear that Maryland will not tolerate a system in which horses are treated as disposable commodities once they are no longer profitable.

Importantly, SB 231 does not end racing, nor does it place unreasonable burdens on responsible owners and trainers. Instead, it establishes a clear ethical baseline: horses who fuel the racing industry should not face a brutal end in slaughterhouses. Many viable aftercare and rehoming options already exist, and this bill will help ensure that those pathways are used rather than bypassed.

SB 231 would protect animals from a cruel and unnecessary fate while reinforcing accountability within the racing industry. It sends a clear message that Maryland recognizes a continuing duty of care to the horses whose labor sustains the sport.

For these reasons, I urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report on SB 231**.

Thank you for your consideration.