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February 28, 2014

Environment Committee  
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 240-0440

Re: Please SUPPORT HB 5044, *AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTICATED HORSES*

Dear Co-Chair Meyer, Co-Chair Gentile, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

On behalf of the Connecticut supporters of The Humane Society of the United States, I submit this letter in SUPPORT of HB 5044.

The Humane Society of the United States stands by the Connecticut equine community in their objection to the notion of categorizing horses, ponies, donkeys, or mules as inherently dangerous by virtue of possessing a vicious propensity.

Viciousness is an attribute of an individual domesticated animal, not an entire species. Connecticut banned breed-specific discrimination for dogs just last year in recognition of this attribute.

A unintended consequence of categorizing horses, ponies, donkeys, or mules as inherently vicious is that insurance premiums for owners of these animals would skyrocket, potentially making these animals cost-prohibitive to own. Additionally, horse-related businesses in our state, including riding/boarding stables, tack shops, and feed and hay suppliers, could be forced out of business. Both companion and therapy horses would then become vulnerable and could end up at kill auctions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

Annie Hornish  
Connecticut State Director  
The Humane Society of the United States  
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**Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty**