

GRANT GANZI
645 SANTANDER AVE.
CORAL GABLES, FLA 33134

September 8, 2023

The Honorable Congresswoman Kat Cammack
3301 SW 34th Circle, Unit 402
Ocala, FL 34474

Dear Representative Cammack:

My name is Grant Ganzi, and I am a constituent living in Coral Gables, with family and work in Wellington. I am a professional polo player and part of one of the country's largest polo organizations, so I spend most of every day around the equine athletes who make our sport possible. My family owns and operates several polo clubs and venues, including the Grand Champions Polo Club, World Polo League, Miami Beach Polo, Aspen Valley Polo Club, and Chukker TV. As I'm sure you can imagine, I care deeply about horses and equine welfare and am personally dedicated to ensuring the equine athletes I partner with receive the very best care. That includes during their active polo careers and retirement when they can no longer compete. I believe American equines are icons of freedom and that all American equines deserve proper care.



As an avid polo player and horse lover, I have ridden horses and cared about them for as long as I can remember and I stand by the belief that horses should be treated with kindness. This same kindness that horses share with humans allows for bonds that change lives. Horses are teammates, therapy animals, partners in work and helped build the foundation of this great nation. Without horses my life would not be the same; the love and bond I share with my horses is something that I could not imagine being without. Not only are horses our partners and teammates on the field, but they are turned out in big pastures with lots of grass and hay to nourish them in their off-time. When horses in polo can no longer play, they are retired to these same fields to be free and roam. Every horse should be cared for as the very special and treasured animals they are. They have earned the honor to age with dignity and enjoy a peaceful retirement.

I support a healthy, thriving equine industry in the United States and note that horses and their owners generate \$122 billion in revenues yearly, impacting the U.S. economy. The equine industry employs more than 1.7 million people nationally. At home, Florida is one of the top three states leading in the highest direct contributions from the equine industry. Sadly, the equine industry is marred by the presence of greedy, cruel profiteers known as "kill buyers" who deal in unfortunate equines who find themselves, through no fault of their own, in the slaughter pipeline, destined to be sold to meat plants in Mexico or Canada where they are slaughtered and sold to foreign countries. According to recent polls, 82% of Americans oppose this practice.

The number of American equines exported for slaughter has dropped to roughly 20,000 annually. Given the number of potential good homes and the sizable network of equine rescue and sanctuary organizations, we should not be allowing the kill buyers and foreign meat companies to exploit these vulnerable equines. Other options exist and new solutions are being introduced, including programs that help owners with rehoming their animals, with basic care, and even with providing humane euthanasia if that is the only option. Simply put, slaughter in a foreign meat company should never be considered an outcome for an animal that has given its heart, mind, body, and soul in service to humans and this country.

I understand there is federal legislation known as the Save America's Forgotten Equines or SAFE Act, H.R. 3475, that would amend the 2018 Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act to add "or equines," thus giving our three most cherished companion animal species protection against slaughter. Since you serve on the House Agriculture Committee, I urge you to add the SAFE Act to the 2023 Farm Bill as an amendment to finally afford our equine companions a basic measure of protection and decency. Since Florida is such a horse-loving state, I encourage you to also lead in introducing that amendment language. As you know, Rep. Vern Buchanan (R.) first introduced the Bill, and there are already three Florida Republican co-sponsors and two Florida Democrats co-sponsoring the SAFE Act. In the Senate (S2037), it is being led by Senator Graham, Senator Rubio, and others. There are 64 co-sponsors currently, with strong bipartisan support.

I know I speak for many others in the world of polo and throughout the equine world when I say that our equines deserve better than being killed and butchered in a foreign meat plant. I think it's un-American to send a horse from this country to be slaughtered and its meat served up in countries like China or Russia.

Please support action to add the SAFE Act to the Farm Bill so that we may give our beloved American equines the protection they so clearly deserve.

Thank you for considering my views and for your service to the people of Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grant Ganzi". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Grant Ganzi

Cc: The Honorable Congresswoman Kat Cammack
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515