



CONGRESSMAN
ANDY BARR



REPRESENTING THE SIXTH DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY

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Barr and Tonko Introduce Horseracing Integrity Act with Growing Coalition of Support

The time has come for uniform medication rules in American horseracing.

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Andy Barr (R-KY) and Congressman Paul Tonko (D-NY), the Co-Chairmen of the Congressional Horse Caucus, today introduced H.R. 2651, the Horseracing Integrity Act. The legislation, an updated version of the Thoroughbred Horseracing Integrity Act of 2015, establishes an authority to create and implement a national uniform medication program with input from the horse industry.

“With growing momentum and support, the time has come for uniform medication rules in American horseracing,” said Congressman Barr. “Uniform rules will ensure the integrity and competitiveness of American horseracing and lay the groundwork for the future success of this great American sport. I am grateful for Congressman Tonko and our coalition for their work over the last two years to improve this legislation which has broadened our base of support and will help us to pass this bill into law.”

“I am excited to partner once again with Congressman Barr on this critical issue,” said Congressman Tonko. “A single, national approach to medication testing with strong independent oversight and enforcement is long overdue. This will help ensure the long-term viability of horseracing by bringing greater integrity to the sport and enhancing the care and welfare of horses. Much is at stake here, especially in regions like ours with long historic ties to an industry that contributes \$4 billion to the New York economy each year, much of it in and around the Saratoga Race Course.”

Under existing law, the American horseracing industry labors under a diverse patchwork of conflicting and inconsistent rules governing medication policies and practices across dozens of different racing jurisdictions. This lack of uniformity in the rules of horseracing has impaired interstate commerce and undermined public confidence in the sport.

The Horseracing Integrity Act will encourage fair competition and a level playing field across state lines, assure full and fair disclosure of information to purchasers of breeding stock and to

the wagering public and provide for the safety and welfare of horses, jockeys, and drivers. This, in turn, will enhance the popularity and international competitiveness of American horseracing.

The legislation is supported by a growing coalition of individuals and organizations representing a broad spectrum of interests across the horse industry including: the Water Hay Oats Alliance, the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association, the Jockey Club, and Keeneland Association. The bill received a major boost last month when it was endorsed by Frank Stronach and the Stronach Group, one of the world's leading racetrack operators and suppliers of pari-mutuel wagering technology.

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