

# Casey Affleck

January 29, 2013

Honorable Member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives  
Massachusetts State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative,

On behalf of my friends at Farm Sanctuary, the ASPCA, and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, I'm writing to ask that you co-sponsor and support the Massachusetts Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act (SD 1690, HD 691). This important animal protection bill will prohibit the three industrial agricultural practices that are already illegal across Europe and that are uniformly despised by animal protection advocates worldwide—veal crates, gestation crates, and battery cages.

I grew up in Cambridge, and like so many Massachusetts residents, pets were part of my family. Through them, I learned that animals have the capacity to feel pleasure, pain, fear and joy. Subsequently, I've come to understand that all animals have these capacities; it doesn't matter whether the animal is a cat or a chicken, a dog or a pig. Yet for a long time our legal system has attempted to protect only pets from pain and suffering, not farm animals. This gap in legal protection allows calves and mother pigs to be confined in isolation pens, never able to turn around or socialize, for their entire lives. And it allows chickens to be crammed five or more to tiny cages, unable to spread their wings or do anything else they would like to do. These systems are deeply unethical and should be banned.

Fortunately, there is growing awareness of farm animal welfare issues. Consumer polls and voter initiatives in Florida, Arizona, and California, demonstrate that Americans want farm animals to be treated humanely. As a result, corporate food giant Burger King has promised to phase out battery cages for laying hens, a long list of companies (including Massachusetts-based Dunkin' Donuts and AuBon Pain) are getting rid of gestation crates, and the American Veal Association recommends that its members get rid of veal crates.

The Massachusetts Prevention of Farm Animal Cruelty Act will grant basic support to these animals who have suffered so much already. It is a simple bill with overwhelming public support. The Massachusetts Legislature will be celebrated for this compassionate act; I hope you will give it your full support.

Sincerely,



Casey Affleck

