

Why are Tennessee's agribusiness and walking horse industries so desperate to suppress whistleblowers?

Politicians in Tennessee are trying to make it a crime to expose cruelty to horses and farm animals with an anti-whistleblower "ag-gag" bill (SB1248).

What are they trying to hide?

A 2011 investigation conducted by The Humane Society of the United States revealed cruelty to horses at a stable in Collierville. A whistleblower documented horses being whipped, kicked, shocked, and subjected to painful soring using burning chemicals on their legs.

The industries' response to this investigation wasn't to stop this cruelty from happening in the future, but to try to make it a crime to expose such abuse.

This is why Tennessee newspapers oppose this misguided bill:

"Despicable, because it aims to protect animal abusers. Unconstitutional, because it seeks to intimidate those who try to report suspected abuse." – **THE TENNESSEAN**

"This bill is about protecting animal abusers." – **KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL**

"All this bill does is protect slaughterhouses and farm and agriculture industries that use inhumane practices to fatten their bottom line." – **DAILY NEWS JOURNAL (Murfreesboro)**

"This kind of gag legislation may also violate the First Amendment rights regarding the dissemination of information. And it is problematic from a public safety standpoint because it also impacts investigations regarding food safety at meat processing plants." – **COMMERCIAL APPEAL (Memphis)**

"Haslam has an opportunity to protect the best interest of Tennesseans by rejecting this legislation with his veto. We urge him to use it." – **JACKSON SUN**

"Gov. Haslam should have the courage, clarity and wisdom to veto a bill that would gag reporters and citizens alike, and that would ultimately encourage and facilitate abuse of animals." – **CHATTANOOGA TIMES FREE PRESS**

"There is no reason not to veto. This is a bad act." – **THE PARIS POST-INTELLIGENCER**

"The problem with this legislation is that it would have a chilling effect on efforts to prove long-term patterns of abuse. It would severely impede efforts by journalists to investigate cases of suspected animal abuse, and chips away at Tennessee's Reporters Privilege Shield Law." – **JOHNSON CITY PRESS**

"Since he took the oath of office in 2011, Gov. Bill Haslam has exercised his veto power only once. Now it's time to do it again." – **BRISTOL HERALD COURIER**

"The legislation will have a chilling effect on the ability of the mainstream press to investigate cases of suspected abuse." – **THE MCKENZIE BANNER**

**Say NO to animal abuse.
Say NO to whistleblower suppression.
Say NO to the "ag-gag" bill.**

Animals need your voice! Please contact **Governor Bill Haslam** at **615-741-2001** and urge him to **VETO SB1248, the anti-whistleblower bill!**



Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES