

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 11, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
233 Cannon House Office  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Minority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1705 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader McCarthy, and Minority Whip Hoyer:

We are writing to respectfully ask you to support the Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture (PACT) Act, H.R. 1494, and allow this bill to be placed on the House suspension calendar. The PACT Act has the support of more than half of the House, with 278 cosponsors, and has already passed the Senate by unanimous consent. The entire Pennsylvania delegation has signed on as cosponsors of this legislation, and the Senate bill is led by our own Pennsylvania Senator Pat Toomey.

The PACT Act would empower the Federal Bureau of Investigations and U.S. Attorneys to prosecute extreme animal abuse cases that cross state lines, affect interstate commerce, or occur on federal property. While all 50 states have felony penalties for malicious cruelty to animals, this legislation would complement the states' anti-cruelty laws in the same way that the federal animal fighting statute complements the 50 state animal fighting laws, by providing a tool for law enforcement when extreme animal cruelty occurs on federal property or otherwise in interstate commerce. Law enforcement, including the National Sheriffs' Association, the Fraternal Order of Police, and more than 200 local law enforcement offices across the nation, have supported this legislation.

The PACT Act is needed to strengthen current law and allow law enforcement to act in cases where their intervention is necessary. In 2010, Congress enacted the Animal Crush Video Prohibition Act to ban the creation, sale, and distribution of obscene videos showing extreme acts of cruelty, such as intentionally crushing, burning, drowning, suffocating, or impaling live animals – but this law did not address the underlying cruelty. The PACT Act would strengthen this law to prohibit those same acts of cruelty when they occur in interstate or foreign commerce or on federal property, regardless of whether a video is produced.

There is a well-documented link between animal abuse and violent behavior toward people, and this legislation is a tool to combat this violence. We urge you to please add this common sense, noncontroversial, and strongly supported bipartisan bill to the House suspension calendar.

Sincerely,



Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress



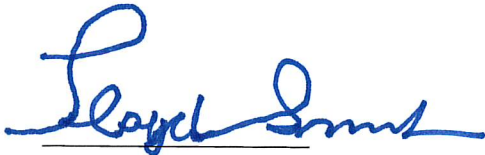
Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress



Ryan Costello  
Member of Congress



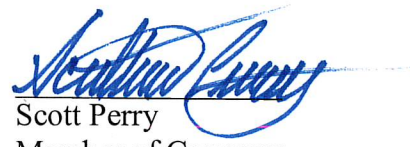
Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress



Tom Marino  
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



Conor Lamb  
Member of Congress

cc: House Judiciary Committee Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Nadler