

October 5, 2011

The Honorable Eugene O'Flaherty
House Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary
State House, Room 136
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

The Honorable Cynthia Stone Cream
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary
State House, Room 405
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Chairman O'Flaherty, Chairwoman Cream and Members of the Committee,

I am here today to request a favorable report on **H 2827, An Act Relative to the Rescue of Foals**.

I filed this bill on behalf of Lucky Horse Equine Rescue, a horse rescue in Bolton. Their founder, Jai Rezac, contacted me after they were told that they could no longer save foals, or baby horse, because current Massachusetts Law forbids the transfer of ownership of a foal without its mother unless it is for slaughter. Lucky Horse has been handcuffed and can no longer address the issue that only scratches the surface of all the abuses to horses throughout the United States.

The original law made sense, when it was written in the late 1800s, because the technology did not exist to keep foals alive unless they were with their mother. Today, technology has advanced far enough so that Horse Rescues can care for and raise horses from birth until adulthood. With the thousands of horses that are put to death yearly throughout this country, we should do everything we can to support programs and rescues that work to save the lives of these horses. While it is important to prevent deaths of these young horses, it is also important to make sure that orphan foals end up in an appropriate rescue that can properly care for and train them rather than allowing just anyone to adopt a foal and possibly create a dangerous situation.

Lucky Horse and rescues like it will be able to save the lives of these amazing animals with the passage of this bill. One visit to the rescue was enough for me to see the necessity of this law in preserving the lives of many young horses. If you have any question about the need for this law I encourage you to visit Lucky Horse Equine Rescue and see the incredible work by Jai and her colleagues.

I thank you for your time and I encourage a favorable report from the Committee.