

## SB 835

### Testimony to Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Horse tripping is the practice of roping the front or hind legs of a galloping horse – causing it to trip and come crashing to the ground – for the purposes of entertainment or sport. It is done intentionally at fringe rodeos and points are awarded for dropping the horse. If you haven't seen photos or videos of this practice, yes, it's as bad as it sounds.

Nine states have already outlawed horse tripping, including Texas, the state that we often associate with rough and rugged cowboys. The Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association has also banned horse tripping.

There is just no denying that roping a horse at its legs so that it crashes into the ground is shockingly cruel. I can't believe that our state still allows this and looks the other way when we know it still exists.

These animals typically weigh more than a thousand pounds and – unlike steer or calves – have a center of gravity that is several feet in the air. The sheer physics of these half-ton creatures, crashing onto the ground from that distance, is why they are often maimed or injured.

And that's why it has been banned on the mainstream rodeo circuit and from legitimate western events.

There are experts here to explain why this law is needed, including veterinarians and what I would call the mainstream horse and cowboy community.

This won't be the biggest bill we pass in this legislature or in this committee. But I believe we define ourselves in small ways. And one measure of who we are is how we treat God's creatures. You can see by the sponsors on this bill that it is bi-partisan and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Senator Mark Hass



Horses and children, I often think,  
have a lot of the good sense  
there is in the word.

-Josephine Demott Robinson