



**Testimony by Kendra Kimbirauskas in Support of SB 835
House Judiciary Committee
May 13, 2013**

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kendra Kimbirauskas and I live in south Clackamas County.

As an Oregon equestrian and horse enthusiast please accept my testimony in support of SB 835. I was born to a horse family and I have been around horses all of my life. In my early years, I broke colts for my father, which then went on to be competitive sport horses. In college and in my early twenties, I earned extra money by riding and rehabilitating ex-race horses so that they could find new careers after a life on the racetrack.

Throughout my tenure, I have interacted with hundreds of horses. I began riding as a toddler, literally before I was walking. I currently own four horses (photos above L to R Snickers, Patience, Loki and Demeter) and I am an active competitor in the sport of Dressage. I have started and trained all of my horses, including my most recently acquired BLM Mustang mare, Patience that I am now competing in Dressage.

Patience, was a wild horse. She was born in the South Steens of Oregon, rounded up and auctioned off at three years of age. Many people would suggest that because of my mare's age at the time of roundup, she would not make a suitable mount. Patience has progressed in her training because of kindness and a gentle approach. Had she been roped and tied down, she would currently be a terrified and possibly dangerous animal today.

Horses are incredible creatures. They are highly intelligent, sensitive animals. And while horses are sturdy and durable, they can be equally as fragile and delicate. With such large bodies, and relatively small legs in comparison to their body weight, (Patience weighs 1400lbs for example) the slightest injury to a leg, neck or to the back can be career ending for these magnificent animals.

That is why I was horrified to learn that at some local unsanctioned rodeos the sport of horse tripping was a regular and featured event. Horse tripping is cruel, unnecessary animal abuse and should be banned from all rodeos immediately.

The sport of horse tripping is psychologically traumatizing to the horses. The process of being chased and tripped is terrifying, and these young horses learn a deep-seated fear of people, making them unsuitable and unsafe as companion animals.

I have heard some testimony on this bill that suggest that outside of the "sport of horse tripping," roping a horse by the legs is sometimes necessary to control an unruly horse. In my life of living with and interacting with horses, there has never been a single episode when I felt that the only solution to controlling a horse was to rope it by the legs. People who understand horses know that such an act would only intensify an already heated situation, making an frightened thousand pound creature even more terrified and increasingly dangerous.

The sport of horse tripping is cruel and makes those of us in the horse industry look bad. We have banned cockfighting and dogfighting as cruel practices and now it's time for Oregon to say no to horse tripping too.