

Submitter: Mike Accardi  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary  
Measure: HB3214

HB 3214: Protecting Animals in Circuses

Dear Legislators,

The treatment of animals in circuses has come to light in recent years, and the time to take action to prevent the inhumane and dangerous practices of the industry is now. I urge you to vote YES on HB 3214.

In Oregon and nearly 150 other localities in 37 states, various restrictions have been imposed on the use of wild animals in circuses and traveling shows to prevent mistreatment of animals. Despite such measures, animals are still subject to cruel conditions and abuse. Elephants, lions, tigers, and chimpanzees are taken away from their mothers at a very young age and brought up in solitary confinement where they cannot exhibit natural behaviors. Bullhooks, whips, tight collars, muzzles, electric prods, and other archaic tools are used to physically punish the animals and make them do tricks. They are often denied food and water when they haven't performed well. The average circus travels for 11 months of the year, but animals are not given adequate time for rest and exercise, as they are all confined to tiny cages. This extended period of restriction and physical mistreatment leads to long-term psychological, emotional, and physical trauma for the animals. In addition, there have been over 35 dangerous incidents where animals have escaped and harmed others, including 13 fatal attacks.

It is essential that HB 3214 be passed to ensure the safety and well-being of circus animals and the public across Oregon. It should not interfere with any educational shows and will not impact jobs held by circus owners. Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to animal welfare.

Sincerely,  
Mike Accardi