



POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

**HORSE PAC®**

# 2023

## Horse PAC® Annual Report



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## FOREWORD

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This annual report summarizes the 2023 activities of Horse PAC®, the Federal Political Action Committee (PAC) of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA). The Committee was activated in 2003 to promote and facilitate the accumulation of voluntary contributions from members of the NTRA and its subsidiaries and affiliates, for the support of political parties and candidates for elective office in the United States. As a multi-issue PAC, the Committee gives bipartisan support to federal elected officials who:

- Serve on Congressional committees that oversee livestock and agricultural issues, Internet gaming, taxation, labor, immigration, energy and commerce and the Interstate Horseracing Act
- Are established leaders
- Understand horse racing's issues
- Have racetracks, OTBs, ADW facilities, breeding farms, training centers and other equine venues in their Districts
- Are members of the Congressional Horse Caucus
- Are emerging leaders meriting "early support"
- Have positive relationships with NTRA's Legislative Team

## MESSAGE FROM THE HORSE PAC® PRESIDENT

March 1, 2024

As I begin year three in this job, I am very proud of the progress we have made at the NTRA and am equally excited for what the future holds.

Unfortunately, this past year in Washington has been filled with frustration. Very few bills were signed into law, infighting within the Republican party saw the first ever Speaker of the House ousted by his party through a motion to vacate which led to weeks without a Speaker, and extreme partisanship continues to stall even seemingly simple progress. However even with these challenges, at the NTRA, we have worked within all these confines and made key advancements where possible, have played a lot of defense, and have utilized Horse PAC® as a key tool in our legislative toolbox.

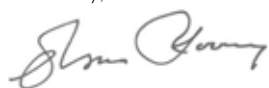
It's been 18 months since we opened an office in Washington, D.C. and staked our NTRA flag on Capitol Hill. In that time we have met with countless offices, hosted briefings and provided educational resources on issues facing the racing industry, and in 2023 we hosted our first ever Kentucky Derby Reception in the Capitol. Our ultimate goal is for everyone on Capitol Hill to know about NTRA and to come to us with any issues their constituents may have.

This year, we also hosted Congressman Pete Aguilar (D-CA) on Breeders' Cup Saturday at Santa Anita Park. Congressman Aguilar is a member of the senior Democratic leadership team in the House, and his district lies just outside of Los Angeles. We were able to introduce him to key players in the Thoroughbred racing space, and show him firsthand the excitement of one of the biggest race days we have here in the US. We will continue this practice to show our elected officials for themselves the value our sport brings to their local communities.

In 2023, Horse PAC® supported 44 candidates with \$148,300. Total contributions to Horse PAC® in 2023 were \$124,888. In 2023, 52 NTRA members contributed to Horse PAC®, including 16 at the \$5,000 Champions level.

The progress we have made since opening our DC office is really starting to show, and we have received greater outreach from Capitol Hill on any horse racing issues that may come up legislatively than ever before. By stewarding Horse PAC® funds to members on strategic committees, on both sides of the aisle, we are setting ourselves up for success regardless of the outcome of the 2024 elections. Our goal is to utilize Horse PAC® to give the NTRA the most success in Washington, and in 2023 we have had a good deal of success doing just that.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Rooney, Horse PAC® President

## 2023 HORSE PAC® BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Horse PAC® Board of Directors is composed of NTRA members representing diverse industry stakeholder groups and geography. Board members are appointed by the Horse PAC® President; the PAC's by-laws allow up to 25 members on the Board of Directors. Board members serve one-year, renewable terms.

Under the leadership of Chairman William S. Farish, Jr., the Board raises funds for Horse PAC® from NTRA members. The Board also approves PAC disbursements. The PAC President and NTRA staff provide support and direction for annual fundraising programs and develop a plan for disbursements in consultation with the NTRA's legislative team.

In 2023 the Horse PAC® Board of Directors welcomed its newest member, Stephanie Hronis. Stephanie is a prominent member of the Thoroughbred racing community. Hronis is part of the Hronis Racing ownership team, alongside her husband Kosta, his brother Pete, and their family. They are part-owners of 2022 Eclipse Award-winning Horse of the Year Flightline. Additionally, she is Chairwoman of the Horse Racing Women's Summit and a member of the Board of Directors of the Thoroughbred Owners of California, Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, Jockey Club Safety Net Foundation Advisory Board, and Shamrock Community Foundation/College + Career Planning Founder/Owner.

The 2023 Board of Directors consisted of:



### **William S. Farish, Jr., Chairman**

John C. Harris  
Stephanie Hronis  
Wilhelmina McEwan  
Justin Nicholson  
Anne W. Poulson

Thomas J. Rooney  
*President*

Keith Chamblin  
*Treasurer*

### **Stephanie Hronis, on joining Horse PAC® Board**

*"It is a great honor to join the NTRA Horse PAC® and to support the significant work being done to ensure the longevity of the horse racing industry. This is especially a priority during the industry's current period of significant change for the betterment of our equine and human athletes."*

## THE NTRA LEGISLATIVE TEAM

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### **Tom Rooney**

Horse PAC President  
NTRA President and CEO

Tom Rooney served the people of Florida in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2009 to 2019, focusing primarily on economic, agricultural, national security, and military issues. Prior to serving in Congress, Rooney served with the U.S. Army as a lawyer in the JAG Corps. During his tenure, he was Special Assistant U.S. Attorney at Fort Hood, Texas, prosecuting all civilian crimes on post in the 1st Cavalry Division. After

completing active duty with the rank of captain, Rooney taught constitutional and criminal law at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

He received his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law and became a member of the Florida Bar in 1999. He also has an M.A. in Political Science from the University of Florida. Rooney played football for Syracuse University and Washington & Jefferson College, where he earned a B.A. in English Literature. Rooney is married to his wife, Tara, and they have three sons.



### **Jordan Bonfitto**

Jordan Bonfitto is the Director of Government Affairs for the NTRA. Bonfitto is based in the NTRA's Washington, D.C. office and leads the organization's advocacy efforts alongside President and CEO, former U.S. Congressman Tom Rooney.

Prior to joining NTRA, Bonfitto served as Director of Government Affairs for the Global Cold Chain Alliance where he oversaw the legislative portfolio and helped expand the association's advocacy initiatives globally. Bonfitto has also

served as a public servant where he was Director of External and Intergovernmental Affairs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture for U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue as well as an Agriculture policy advisor for the National Economic Council at the White House. Prior to the Administration, Bonfitto worked on Capitol Hill.

## THE NTRA LEGISLATIVE TEAM

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### **Joe Bacigalupo**

Joe Bacigalupo is Vice President of Membership Development for the NTRA. Bacigalupo is based in the NTRA's Lexington, Ky. office and heads the organization's development efforts that support the NTRA's federal legislative advocacy work.

Bacigalupo served as marketing manager for Churchill Downs, Inc., before joining NTRA. In his role with CDI, Bacigalupo created and executed both short term and long-range marketing plans and programs to ensure the profit, growth and expansion of the pari-mutuel wagering product from CDI's family of Thoroughbred racetracks. Bacigalupo began his career in the horse racing industry at TVG Network, now known as FanDuel TV, where he served as field marketing manager when the fledgling television network and advance deposit wagering company launched across the United States. Prior to entering the horse racing industry, Bacigalupo worked for Georgia-Pacific Corp.



### **Meghan Rodgers**

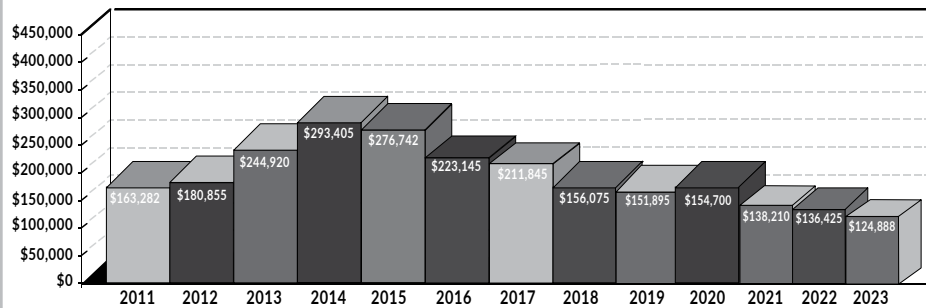
Meghan Rodgers is the Senior Vice President of Public Affairs for the NTRA. Rodgers opened and is managing NTRA's Washington, D.C. office and is managing all external communications for the NTRA.

Rodgers served as Deputy Communications Director at the U.S. Department of Agriculture for U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, a role which included staffing Secretary Perdue on official travel in the United States and internationally, coordinating media on the local, state, national and international scale, and advising high level strategic communications planning for the second largest agency in the federal government. Prior to joining the Trump Administration, Rodgers worked on Capitol Hill for two House members, including serving as Communications Director for Congressman Tom Rooney (FL-17).

## RECEIPTS

From inception through December 31, 2023, Horse PAC® has raised \$4,960,326. The committee raised \$344,137 for the 2011/2012 election cycle, \$538,325 for the 2013/2014 election cycle, \$499,887 for the 2015/2016 election cycle, \$367,920 for the 2017/2018 election cycle, \$306,595 for the 2019/2020 election cycle, \$274,635 for the 2021/2022 election cycle, and \$124,888 for the 2023/2024 election cycle thus far.

### HORSE PAC® RECEIPTS SINCE 2011



## 2023 HORSE PAC® CONTRIBUTORS

### CHAMPIONS – \$5,000

Barbara Banke	William S. Farish, Jr.	David Ingordo
Ramona Bass	H. Greg Goodman	Justin & Katie Nicholson
Cornelia Corbett	Eric Gustavson	Carl F. Pollard
Adele B. Dilschneider	Deborah R. Hancock	Stella Ferguson Thayer
Sarah Farish	Seth Hancock	
William S. Farish	Stephanie Haronis	

### LEADERS – \$2,500 - \$4,999

Keith Chamblin	Earle I. Mack	Kenny Troutt
Peter Fluor	Richard & Sue Ann Masson	Lisa Troutt
Emory A. Hamilton	Thomas J. Rooney	Kane C. Weiner

### WINNERS – \$1,000 - \$2,499

James T. Dresher Jr.	Bruce Lunsford	Beverly R. Steinman
Dell Hancock	Wilhelmina McEwan	George Strawbridge, Jr.
Gregory Johnson	Leverett Miller	Jack R. Swain
Marc Keller	David O'Farrell	Duncan & Carol Taylor
Robert V. Lapenta	Anne Poulson	

## 2023 HORSE PAC® CONTRIBUTORS

### SUPPORTERS – UP TO \$999

Joe Bacigalupo	John Kovarik	Michele Ravencraft
Jordan Bonfitto	Peter A. Leidel	Meghan Rodgers
Mrs. Patricia Chapman	Jeffrey & Margery Lewis	Mark & Julia Taylor
Dr. Carl Gessler	John McDaniel	Robert M. Watt III
Rich Goodall	Joe Brown Nicholson	

### NTRA ADVANTAGE EQUINE DISCOUNTS

Contributors to Horse PAC® receive exclusive equine discounts on programs and services from nationally known companies like John Deere, Big Ass Fans, Sherwin-Williams, Office Depot, Farmers Insurance and more through NTRA Advantage Equine Discounts. When you use NTRA Advantage Equine Discounts, a portion of your purchase price goes to support the equine industry. To enjoy the benefits call toll-free **(866) 678-4289** or visit **[www.equinediscounts.com](http://www.equinediscounts.com)** before you buy!

## 2023 HORSE PAC® DISBURSEMENTS

### Federal Candidates by Amount\*

State	Amount	Rank
CA	\$25,000	1
KY	\$24,000	T-2
NY	\$24,000	T-2
FL	\$12,800	4
NJ	\$7,000	5
AR	\$6,000	6
MA	\$5,000	T-7
NC	\$5,000	T-7
SD	\$5,000	T-7
AL	\$2,500	T-10
MO	\$2,500	T-10
OK	\$2,500	T-10
AZ	\$2,000	T-13
PA	\$2,000	T-13
WA	\$2,000	T-13
OH	\$1,500	T-16
WY	\$1,500	T-16
ID	\$1,000	18
MN	\$1,000	19
NE	\$1,000	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$133,300</b>	

\* Excludes disbursements to political committees that are not associated with individual candidates.

### Federal Candidates by State\*

State	Amount	Rank
AL	\$2,500	T-10
AR	\$6,000	6
AZ	\$2,000	T-13
CA	\$25,000	1
FL	\$12,800	4
ID	\$1,000	18
KY	\$24,000	T-2
MA	\$5,000	T-7
MN	\$1,000	19
MO	\$2,500	T-10
NC	\$5,000	T-7
NE	\$1,000	20
NJ	\$7,000	5
NY	\$24,000	T-2
OH	\$1,500	T-16
OK	\$2,500	T-10
PA	\$2,000	T-13
SD	\$5,000	T-7
WA	\$2,000	T-13
WY	\$1,500	T-16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$133,300</b>	

\* Excludes disbursements to political committees that are not associated with individual candidates.

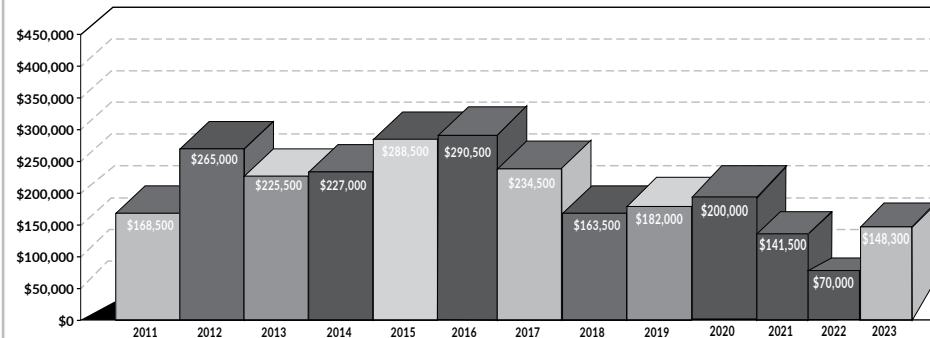
## 2023 HORSE PAC® DISBURSEMENTS

### Federal Contributions: **\$148,300**

House	\$52,500
Senate	\$27,500
Federal Leadership PACs	\$68,300
Democratic	\$51,000
Republican	\$97,300

From inception through December 31, 2023, Horse PAC® has disbursed \$4,832,679. The committee disbursed \$438,500 for the 2011/2012 election cycle, \$452,500 for the 2013/2014 election cycle, \$579,000 for the 2015/2016 election cycle, \$398,000 for the 2017/2018 election cycle, \$382,000 for the 2019/2020 election cycle, \$211,500 for the 2021/2022 election cycle and \$148,300 for the 2023/2024 election cycle thus far.

### HORSE PAC® DISBURSEMENTS SINCE 2011



**Total Disbursements to Date**

**\$4,832,679**

## 2023 HORSE PAC® DISBURSEMENTS

The following candidates and political committees received Horse PAC® funds in 2023:

### United States House of Representatives

House of Reps	Party	State	Re-election Year	2023 Disbursed	Committees
Adrian Smith	R	NE	2024	\$1,000	Ways & Means; CHC
Andrew Garbarino	R	NY	2024	\$1,000	Financial Services
Andy Barr	R	KY	2024	\$500	Financial Services; CHC Co-Chair; Foreign Affairs
Anthony D'Esposito	R	NY	2024	\$1,000	Homeland Security; Transportation and Infrastructure
Bill Pascrell	D	NJ	2024	\$1,000	Ways & Means; CHC
Brad Finstad	R	MN	2024	\$1,000	Agriculture
Brian Higgins	D	NY	2024	\$1,000	Ways & Means
Cathy McMorris-Rodgers	R	WA	2024	\$2,000	Energy & Commerce (Chairwoman)
Claudia Tenney	R	NY	2024	\$1,000	Ways & Means
Donald Norcross	D	NJ	2024	\$1,000	Education & Labor; Armed Services
Elise Stefanik	R	NY	2024	\$5,000	Education & Labor; Armed Services
Frank Pallone Jr.	D	NJ	2024	\$2,500	Energy & Commerce (Ranking); CHC
Glenn Thompson	R	PA	2024	\$1,000	Agriculture (Chairman)
Greg Steube	R	FL	2024	\$1,000	Ways & Means
Hal Rogers	R	KY	2024	\$3,500	Appropriations; CHC
Jason Smith	R	MO	2024	\$2,500	Ways & Means (Chairman)
Jim Costa	D	CA	2024	\$1,000	Agriculture
Jimmy Panetta	D	CA	2024	\$1,000	Ways & Means
Josh Gottheimer	D	NJ	2024	\$2,500	Financial Services
Kat Cammack	R	FL	2024	\$2,500	Agriculture; Energy & Commerce
Mario Diaz-Balart	R	FL	2024	\$1,500	Appropriations
Matthew Cartwright	D	PA	2024	\$1,000	Appropriations
Mike Thompson	D	CA	2024	\$1,000	Ways & Means
Morgan McGarvey	D	KY	2024	\$5,000	Small Business; Veterans' Affairs
Patrick Timothy McHenry	R	NC	2024	\$5,000	Financial Services (Chairman)
Paul Tonko	D	NY	2024	\$5,000	Energy & Commerce; CHC Co-Chair
Vern Buchanan	R	FL	2024	\$1,000	Ways & Means
<b>TOTAL House of Representatives</b>				<b>\$52,500</b>	

## 2023 HORSE PAC® DISBURSEMENTS

### United States Senate

Senate	Party	State	Re-election Year	2023 Disbursed	Committees
John Barrasso	R	WY	2024	\$1,500	Finance
John Boozman	R	AR	2028	\$1,000	Agriculture (Ranking)
John Thune	R	SD	2028	\$2,500	Agriculture; Finance
Kyrsten Sinema	I	AZ	2024	\$2,000	Appropriations
Marco Rubio	R	FL	2028	\$2,000	Appropriations; Foreign Relations; Small Business
Mike Crapo	R	ID	2028	\$1,000	Finance (Ranking)
NRSC	R	N/A	N/A	\$15,000	
Tommy Tuberville	R	AL	2026	\$2,500	Agriculture; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
<b>TOTAL Senate</b>				<b>\$27,500</b>	

## 2023 HORSE PAC® DISBURSEMENTS

### Federal Leadership PACs

Associated Candidate	Party	State	RE-ELECTION YEAR	2023 Actual Leadership PAC	Committees
Alex Padilla	D	CA	2028	\$2,000	Budget; Judiciary
Andy Barr	R	KY	2024	\$5,000	Financial Services; CHC Co-Chair; Foreign Affairs
Brad Wenstrup	R	OH	2024	\$1,500	Ways & Means
Chuck Schumer	D	NY	2028	\$5,000	Senate Majority Leader
Hakeem Jeffries	D	NY	2024	\$5,000	House Minority Leader
John Boozman	R	AR	2028	\$5,000	Agriculture (Ranking); Appropriations
John Thune	R	SD	2028	\$2,500	Agriculture; Finance
Kevin McCarthy	R	CA	2024	\$15,000	Former Speaker, RESIGNED from congress Dec 31 23
Marco Rubio	R	FL	2028	\$1,500	Appropriations ;Foreign Relations; Small Business
Markwayne Mullin	R	OK	2026	\$2,500	Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Mitch McConnell	R	KY	2026	\$5,000	Senate Minority Leader; Agriculture; Appropriations
Morgan McGarvey	D	KY	2024	\$5,000	Small Business
Pete Aguilar	D	CA	2024	\$5,000	Appropriations
Richard Neal	D	MA	2024	\$5,000	Ways & Means (Ranking)
Rick Scott	R	FL	2024	\$3,300	Budget; Homeland Security
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$68,300</b>	

**Leadership PACs** enable politicians to donate to other candidates, thereby building relationships with their peers. These relationships are critical to Members of Congress who may be seeking a leadership position in Congress, a higher office, or greater leverage within their own party as they demonstrate their fund-raising ability. Candidates who form Leadership PACs are signaling their intent to build their political influence. Leadership PACs also provide a way for candidates to fund their travel, office expenses, consultants, polling and other non-campaign expenses.

## 2023 HORSE PAC® DISBURSEMENTS BY COMMITTEE

Most Horse PAC®-supported candidates serve on one or more committees that oversee the industry. The following is a list of key committees for racing and the candidates on those committees that Horse PAC® supported in 2023. Additionally, the PAC supports candidates who understand racing's issues, have racetracks and other racing-related industries in their districts, serve in leadership roles, are members of Congressional caucuses important to our industry or are emerging leaders meriting early support. Candidates are evaluated on their individual merits.

### Key Congressional Committees for the Thoroughbred Industry

Committee	House/Senate	Issue(s)
Agriculture	House and Senate	Livestock, equine identification, Farm Bill
Appropriations	House and Senate	Bills serve as vehicles for other provisions
Banking	Senate	Internet gaming
Commerce, Science & Transportation	Senate	Interstate Horseracing Act; general oversight for professional sports, including medication issues
Education & Labor	House and Senate	Worker health and safety; job training; employer/employee relations
Energy & Commerce	House	Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act ; Interstate Horseracing Act; general oversight for professional sports, including medication issues
Finance	Senate	Taxes and trade
Financial Services	House	Internet gaming
Homeland Security	House and Senate	Security for major racing events; anti-terrorism measures affecting consumers; immigration
Judiciary	House and Senate	Internet gaming, immigration
Ways & Means	House	Taxes and trade

## 2023 HORSE PAC® COMMITTEE NUMBERS

### AGRICULTURE

#### Agriculture Committee (House of Representatives)

- 54 Members/25 Democrats, 29 Republicans

Through their re-elect campaigns, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported four members of the House Agriculture Committee: Kat Cammack (R-FL), Jim Costa (D-CA), Brad Finstad (R-MN), and Committee Chairman Glen Thompson (R-PA).

#### Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry (Senate)

- 23 Members/12 Democrats, 11 Republicans

Through their re-elect campaigns and/or Leadership PACs, in 2023, Horse PAC® supported four members of the Senate Agriculture Committee: John Boozman (R-AR), Mitch McConnell (R-KY), John Thune (R-SD), and Tommy Tuberville (R-AL).

### APPROPRIATIONS

#### Appropriations (House of Representatives)

- 61 Members/27 Democrats, 34 Republicans

Through their re-elect campaigns and/or Leadership PACs, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported four members of the House Appropriations Committee: Pete Aguilar (D-CA), Matt Cartwright (D-PA), Mario Diaz Balart (R-FL), and Hal Rogers (R-KY).

#### Appropriations (Senate)

- 29 Members/14 Democrats, 14 Republicans, 1 Independent

Through their re-elect campaigns and/or Leadership PACs, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported four members of the Senate Appropriations Committee: John Boozman (R-AR), Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Marco Rubio (R-FL), and Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ).

### BANKING

#### Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs (Senate)

- 23 Members/12 Democrats, 11 Republicans

Through his re-elect campaign, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported one member of the Senate Banking Committee: Michael Crapo (R-ID).

## 2023 HORSE PAC® COMMITTEE NUMBERS

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### COMMERCE

#### Energy and Commerce Committee (House of Representatives)

- 52 Members/23 Democrats, 29 Republicans

Through their re-elect campaigns and/or Leadership PACs, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported four members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee: Committee Chairwoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), Kat Kammack (R-FL), Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ), and Paul Tonko (D-NY).

#### Commerce, Science and Transportation (Senate)

- 27 Members/13 Democrats, 13 Republicans, 1 Independent

Through their re-elect campaigns and/or Leadership PACs, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported two members of the Senate Commerce Committee: Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ) and John Thune (R-SD).

### FINANCE

#### Finance Committee (Senate)

- 27 Members/14 Democrats, 13 Republicans

Through their re-elect campaigns and/or Leadership PACs, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported three members of the Senate Finance Committee: Ranking Member Michael Crapo (R-ID), John Barrasso (R-WY), and John Thune (R-SD).

### FINANCIAL SERVICES

#### Financial Services (House of Representatives)

- 52 Members/23 Democrats, 29 Republicans

Through their re-elect campaigns and/or Leadership PACs, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported four members of the House Financial Services Committee: Andy Barr (R-KY), Andrew Garbarino (R-NY), Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), and Committee Chairman Patrick McHenry (R-NC).

### HOMELAND SECURITY

#### Homeland Security (House of Representatives)

- 33 Members/15 Democrats, 18 Republicans

Through their re-elect campaigns and/or Leadership PACs, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported two members of the House Homeland Security Committee: Anthony D'Esposito (R-NV) and Andrew Garbarino (R-NY).

## 2023 HORSE PAC® COMMITTEE NUMBERS

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#### Homeland Security and Government Affairs (Senate)

- 15 Members/7 Democrats, 7 Republicans, 1 Independent

Through their re-elect campaigns and/or Leadership PACs, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported two members of the Senate Homeland Security Committee: Rick Scott (R-FL) and Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ).

### JUDICIARY

#### Judiciary Committee (House of Representatives)

- 44 Members/25 Republicans, 19 Democrats

In 2023 Horse PAC® supported no members of the House Judiciary Committee.

#### Judiciary Committee (Senate)

- 21 Members/11 Democrats, 10 Republicans

Through his Leadership PAC, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported one member of the Senate Judiciary Committee: Alex Padilla (D-CA).

### LABOR

#### Education & The Workforce (House of Representatives)

- 45 Members/20 Democrats, 25 Republicans

Through their re-elect campaigns and/or Leadership PACs, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported three members of the House Education & The Workforce Committee: Donald Norcross (D-NJ), Elise Stefanik (R-NY), and GT Thompson (R-PA).

#### Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (Senate)

- 21 Members/10 Democrats, 10 Republicans, 1 Independent

Through their re-elect campaigns and/or Leadership PACs, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported two members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions: Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) and Tommy Tuberville (R-AL).

### SMALL BUSINESS

#### Committee on Small Business (House of Representatives)

- 27 Members/12 Democrats, 15 Republicans

Through his re-elect campaign and Leadership PAC, in 2023 Horse PAC®

## 2023 HORSE PAC® COMMITTEE NUMBERS

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supported one member of the House Committee on Small Business: Morgan McGarvey (D-KY).

### **Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship**

- 19 Members/10 Democrats, 9 Republicans

Through his re-elect campaign and Leadership PAC, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported one member of the Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship: Marco Rubio (R-FL).

## **WAYS AND MEANS**

### **Ways and Means (House of Representatives)**

- 43 Members/18 Democrats, 25 Republicans

Through their re-elect campaigns and/or Leadership PACs, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported 11 members of the House Ways and Means Committee: Vern Buchanan (R-FL), Brian Higgins (D-NY), Ranking Member Richard E. Neal (D-MA), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), Adrian Smith (R-NE), Committee Chairman Jason Smith (R-MO), Greg Steube (R-FL), Claudia Tenney (R-NY), Mike Thompson (D-CA), and Brad Wenstrup (R-OH).

## **HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERSHIP**

Horse PAC® supports candidates who serve in leadership capacities within their respective parties. Through their re-elect campaigns and/or Leadership PACs, in 2023 Horse PAC® supported the following House and Senate leaders:

### **House**

Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), Minority Leader

Pete Aguilar (D-CA), Chair of the House Democratic Caucus

Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), Former Speaker of the House

Elise Stefanik (R-NY), Chair of the House Republican Conference

### **Senate**

Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Minority Leader

Charles Schumer (D-NY), Majority Leader

John Thune (R-SD), Minority Whip

John Barrasso (R-WY), Chair of the Senate Republican Conference

## 2024 OUTLOOK

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As we find ourselves at the midpoint of this two-year congressional term, the legislative landscape presents a stark reality—only 27 bills have transitioned into law, marking a historic low in recent times and establishing a formidable challenge for lawmakers. The ensuing blame game unfolds with Democrats pointing fingers at the House GOP majority, Republicans attributing the slowdown to the Democratic-led Senate, and certain GOP members introspectively evaluating their role in the legislative gridlock.

The year 2024 brings with it a daunting to-do list, spanning from the preparation of a comprehensive tax package to the passage of a new Farm Bill, not to mention the continuous challenge of securing government funding for more than a few weeks. This year stands out as a decisive turning point where control of the House, Senate, and the Presidency all hangs in the balance. The preceding two Presidential elections were exceptionally close, and the 2024 race appears poised to follow suit, with the outcome likely determined by a mere handful of states.

This November will see 34 Senate contests, though only a select few are competitive. Presently, Democrats hold a narrow majority of 51-49 but must defend two-thirds of the seats up for election in this cycle. Simultaneously, all 435 House seats are on the ballot, and control of the chamber, currently in Republican hands, hinges on a few key races. Nevertheless, following months of chaos initiated by the Republicans with the ousting of their Speaker, maintaining the 218 majority might prove to be an uphill battle this year.

Despite the electoral outcomes, the NTRA is well-prepared to consistently champion the best interests of our sport.

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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As the representative organization for the Thoroughbred industry, the NTRA directs its lobbying efforts toward legislation that significantly impacts its members and their business engagements in the realms of horse racing, breeding, and pari-mutuel wagering. Additionally, the NTRA advocates for Congressional education initiatives addressing broader issues like agriculture and immigration, which have implications for the entire horse industry. The following outlines key legislative matters pertinent to Thoroughbred breeding and racing during the 118th Congress.

**Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act (HISA)—** HISA represents the culmination of extensive industry efforts aimed at establishing a nationwide consensus on anti-doping, medication control, and racetrack safety in the horse racing sector. It advocates for the creation of an independent, self-regulatory body known as the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (the “Authority”). The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) oversees this Authority. Since May 22, 2023, both HISA’s Racetrack Safety program and Anti-Doping and Medication Control (ADMV) Program have been fully operational. Despite its implementation in most racing states, there are ongoing attempts to hinder its progress.

During deliberations on H.R. 4664, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act of 2024, Congressman Lance Gooden (R-TX) proposed an amendment in November 2023. This amendment aimed to restrict funds for implementing or enforcing the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act of 2020 (HISA), falling under the FTC’s jurisdiction. Recognizing the potential challenges posed by this amendment, NTRA took proactive steps to engage in advocacy on Capitol Hill. Through these efforts, the proposed amendment was successfully removed from the bill, preventing potential adverse effects on the FTC’s duties related to overseeing HISA. This action emphasized to lawmakers that any attempts to impede HISA’s progress could hinder the overall success of the attached legislation.

Furthermore, on September 26, 2023, Congressman Clay Higgins (R-LA) introduced H.R. 5693, the Racehorse Health and Safety Act of 2023 (RHSA). Despite having only four cosponsors since its introduction, RHSA aims to repeal the bipartisan HISA, signed into law by Presidents Trump and Biden. RHSA is an attempt to regress to the pre-HISA era, dismantling uniform safety standards and returning to a state-by-state patchwork system. NTRA remains committed to advocating for HISA on Capitol Hill, collaborating with allies to oppose the RHSA legislation and uphold uniform safety standards in the horse racing industry.

**Tax Provisions that Stimulate the Equine Economy:** In the 2008 Farm Bill, NTRA secured a provision enabling the uniform and accelerated depreciation of Thoroughbreds over a three-year schedule. Historically included in tax extender packages, this provision faced a lapse in 2021 due to Congress’ failure to approve a conventional extender package, leading to the adoption of a seven-year depreciation schedule.

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Despite the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 introducing 100% bonus depreciation, the three-year depreciation, when in effect, has remained advantageous for owners of young racehorses. This is particularly beneficial for racing partnerships with multiple passive owners, aligning deductions with annual income opportunities.

While the horse industry now relies on Congress to annually extend this provision as part of a tax extender package, the current Congress has yet to pass such a traditional package. However, NTRA has collaborated with allies Congressman Andy Barr (R-KY) and Congressman Morgan McGarvey (D-KY) to address this issue and propose a permanent solution.

Earlier this year, these advocates introduced H.R.2926, known as the Race Horse Cost Recovery Act of 2023. This proposed legislation seeks to permanently allow accelerated depreciation for racehorses over a three-year recovery period. NTRA is actively advocating for the swift passage of this bill, whether as a standalone measure or as part of more extensive tax legislation.

As noted earlier, the TCJA also increased bonus depreciation to 100% until 2023 where it phased down to 80%. This will phase down to 60% to start in 2024 and by an additional 20% each year through 2026, when it becomes completely phased out starting in 2027. Bonus depreciation has been critical in driving investment in the equine sector. With it continuing to phase out and eventually being eliminated, NTRA has made it a key focus to get this provision reinstated back to the 100% level. We were pleased to see the House of Representatives take action early in 2024 and pass H.R. 7024, the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024, with huge bipartisan support. This comprehensive tax package includes the extension of 100% bonus depreciation until the end of 2025. This would align with other provisions in TCJA that are set to expire at the end of 2025 and will need to be addressed setting up a major tax debate before 2026. With the passage in the House, the legislation now moves to the Senate for consideration where we hope it will quickly pass and be signed into law.

**US Department of Agriculture Equine Import Issues:** After working with US Department of Agriculture (USDA) all last year, NTRA was pleased with the announcement of new guidance which will streamline the glanders testing protocol for importing horses into the United States. USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently issued an update to its Veterinary Services Guidance (VSG) 13407.3, which pertains to the testing of horses during their import quarantine. This update introduces a new testing procedure for glanders, which previously has been susceptible to producing false positives. NTRA has been in ongoing discussions with the USDA concerning testing protocols and is encouraged by the USDA’s responsiveness to our input, resulting in essential

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adjustments to the glanders testing protocol.

Below is a summary of the revised guidance regarding the glanders testing protocol:

**Glanders Testing Protocol:** A new testing protocol for glanders has been introduced, aimed at minimizing the possibility of false positive results without incurring additional costs for submitters. The National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) will now employ the double antigen enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (daELISA) as the official test for glanders. This test is more sensitive and specific compared to the existing complement fixation test (CFT). The daELISA results are binary, being either positive or negative, with no “suspect” outcomes. If daELISA results turn out positive, NVSL will conduct a Western blot as a confirmatory test. Horses testing negative in the Western blot confirmatory test will be classified as free from glanders and may be released.

NTRA is committed to fostering a positive relationship with USDA to continue to champion and support equine policies that benefit our industry.

**Farm Bill Delayed:** Late in 2023, lawmakers grappled with challenges in renewing the Farm Bill. As a result, both Republican and Democrat leaders proposed a plan to prolong the existing 2018 Farm Bill through a stopgap funding measure, successfully passing it on November 14, 2023. The extension, negotiated by the House and Senate Agriculture Committees, stretches the Farm Bill’s validity until September 30, 2024. While the Farm Bill’s progress has been delayed, NTRA remains committed to collaborating with Members of Congress to advocate for the inclusion of crucial equine provisions, such as the three-year depreciation schedule for yearlings, originally introduced in the 2008 Farm Bill.

**Immigration.** The H-2B visa guest worker program serves as a nonimmigrant visa initiative utilized by various industries in need of temporary non-agricultural assistance when domestic workers are not readily available. Within the horse racing sector, trainers heavily depend on the H-2B program to fill various backside positions. Congress has established a cap of 66,000 H-2B visas per fiscal year, with 33,000 allocated for workers commencing employment in the first half of the fiscal year (October 1 – March 31) and another 33,000 for those starting in the second half (April 1 – September 30). This allocation often falls short of meeting employer demand. To address this shortfall, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of Labor (DOL) typically provide supplemental visas later in the fiscal year. The H-2B visa program, akin to broader U.S. immigration policy, requires significant reform to better serve both workers and employers. The NTRA advocates for comprehensive immigration reform and actively participates in the H-2B Workforce Coalition to improve the H-2B visa program.

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In 2023, the House Appropriations Committee passed the fiscal year 2024 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, which included an amendment to grant a returning worker exemption for the H-2B Visa program. The amendment stipulated that a visa worker previously counted toward the numerical limitation in any of the three preceding fiscal years would be considered a returning worker and not counted again in fiscal year 2024. Unfortunately, this provision was removed, eliminating a crucial opportunity to temporarily address the H-2B visa cap issue during the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress.

In addition, on November 3, 2023, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Labor announced they will increase the number of H-2B visas for temporary nonagricultural workers for Fiscal Year 2024 by 64,716, in addition to the 66,000 already mandated by Congress. This expansion aims to assist industries like the equine industry that rely on seasonal or temporary workers. The announcement enables businesses to plan ahead and find necessary temporary workers, while emphasizing the protection of both American and foreign workers. The H-2B program involves stringent labor market testing by employers, ensuring a lack of qualified US workers and that employing H-2B workers won't negatively impact US workers' wages or conditions. The H-2B visa period is limited to three years, after which individuals must leave the US for three months before seeking readmission.

The NTRA will persist in advocating before Congress for the enactment of permanent solutions to address the temporary worker challenges faced by the Thoroughbred industry.

**Sports Betting.** In May of 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court, by a 7-2 decision, overturned the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA) in the landmark *Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)* decision. Previously, PASPA banned all but four states from legalizing sports gambling. States and sovereign tribal nations can now set their own policies to legalize and regulate sports betting. In less than five years, 36 states and Washington, D.C. have joined Nevada in legalizing sports betting. While no sports betting legislation has been introduced in the 118th Congress, the NTRA continues to assess the potential threats and opportunities that such legislation would present. The NTRA plans to be at the table as it has been on all previous Internet and sports betting issues for the past 20 years.

Horse PAC®, the Federal Political Action Committee (PAC) of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, was activated to support Federal elected officials who are interested in issues that affect pari-mutuel horse racing. Contributions to Horse PAC® are accepted from NTRA members only. Contributions from outside this restricted class will be returned to the contributor. As an NTRA member, you can choose to participate in the PAC or decline. The NTRA will not favor or disfavor members according to donations. Suggested contribution amounts are merely a suggestion. Members should feel free to contribute more – up to the legal maximum of \$5,000 per year – or less than the suggested contribution, or not at all. Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, and occupation and the name of the employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Contributions to Horse PAC® will be used to support or oppose candidates for public office. Contributions to Horse PAC® are not tax-deductible.

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Thomas J. Rooney**  
***President, Horse PAC®***

401 W. Main St. Suite 222  
Lexington, KY 40507  
Phone: 859-422-2602



50 F Street NW, Suite 430  
Washington, DC 20001  
Phone: 609-410-3323