

April 22, 2021

Kenneth DeMoss
Principal
Parkersburg High School

Via e-mail: kdemoss@k12.wv.us

Dear Mr. DeMoss:

I'm writing from TeachKind, PETA's humane education division, which works with thousands of teachers nationwide to bring compassion into the curriculum. We [heard](#) that earlier this month at Parkersburg High School, students learned about horse racing from trainer Bob Baffert. **We urge you to give students a balanced perspective by also teaching them about the cruelty inherent in the horse racing industry.**

Giving young people the full spectrum of facts on an issue promotes critical thinking skills, which is why we ask that you also inform your students about the abuse that horses endure in the horse racing business. We encourage you to educate your students about Baffert's sordid racing history. He has had horses disqualified after they failed post-race drug tests. After horses he owned suddenly died in his stables, it was revealed that he had given all of them a dangerous thyroid medication as a performance enhancer, even though the horses had no diagnosed thyroid condition. It's still not known exactly why they died.

You may know that 58 horses died at tracks in West Virginia last year and that so far this year, 10 horses have died at Charles Town Races. Horses who are used for racing are the victims of a multibillion-dollar industry that is rife with drug abuse, injuries, and race fixing, and many horses' careers end in slaughterhouses. They may even end up in a West Virginia landfill, just as 8-year-old Thoroughbred [Bridget Moloney](#) did in 2019 after being injured at Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack & Resort.

Horse racing also puts a strain on many vulnerable citizens, as it promotes gambling, leaves injured jockeys struggling to cover medical bills, and has an appalling record of exploiting the workers who care for the horses and keep stable areas clean.

This is not an industry to promote to students.

We would love to discuss this important issue with you. **Will you allow us equal time to offer an age-appropriate presentation to your students about the lives of the horses used in the horse racing industry?** We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Lisbet Chiriboga, M.S. Ed.
Program Manager

