
March 20, 2019

The Honorable Ben Hueso
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 313 (Hueso): Circus Cruelty Prevention Act – Support

Dear Senator Hueso:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 313, and we thank you for introducing this important legislation.

Currently, circuses travel nearly year-round, in all weather extremes, sometimes for days at a time. While in transit, the animals are confined to trailers or trucks, where they may not have access to basic necessities, such as food, water, and veterinary care. Elephants are chained, and big cats are imprisoned in cramped, filthy cages, in which they eat, drink, sleep, defecate, and urinate—all in the same place. And there's no relief once the animals reach a venue, where they remain caged and are chained in arena basements and parking lots.

Government oversight of training methods is virtually non-existent. Circuses are transient. They move quickly from city to city and easily evade law enforcement. Local animal control officers typically lack the specialized knowledge and training needed to recognize an ailing wild or exotic animal and the resources and expertise needed to take action.

Public demand for cruelty-free circuses continues to grow. Wild animals also pose an inordinate danger to public safety. If they feel threatened or frightened, they will act on their natural instincts—and when a bear, a big cat, or an elephant rebels, trainers can't always protect themselves or the public.

SB 313 protects many species such as elephants, monkeys, bears, and tigers from being forced to perform in circuses. I am grateful to you for authoring this important legislation and urge your colleagues in the legislature to vote "aye" on SB 313.

Sincerely,