



Animal Welfare Institute

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April 3, 2026

Colorado General Assembly
Finance Committee
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

RE: HB26-1306 Wild Horse License Plate

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute and the Homes for Horses Coalition, I am writing in support of HB26-1306, to establish a license plate to support the humane management of wild horses in the state.

As a member of the wild horse working group established in the legislature by SB23-275, I am deeply familiar with our wild herds and the complexities of wild horse management. Our diverse group of stakeholders came to a consensus on strategies to improve the stewardship of our wild horses, namely emphasis on the increased application of immunocontraceptive fertility control, the improvement of matches between adopters and horses, and the elevation of our herds to increase tourism and support rural economies. Two extensive reports were published covering our recommendations for state wild horse management, and it is crucial that this work receive backing for the ideas to be implemented.

Our wild horses have extensive support across the state, and many stakeholders wonder how they can get involved in protecting their futures here. A license plate would create a simple funding stream to direct their contributions to the wild horse fund. In addition, it would further the goal of educating more Coloradans about the existence of our wild horse herds.

I am very grateful that the legislature has supported the creation of the wild horse working group and the wild horse fund in previous sessions, and I hope that the creation of a funding stream to bolster the implementation of that work will be considered and passed by the legislature.

Sincerely,

Tessa Archibald
Equine Policy Associate, Animal Welfare Institute
Manager, Homes for Horses Coalition