

PUT AN END TO PENNSYLVANIA'S

# \$240 MILLION SUBSIDY TO THE HORSE RACING INDUSTRY



## A \$3 BILLION BOONDOGGLE

Taxpayers have subsidized horse racing in Pennsylvania since the 1960s, but the price tag exploded when Pennsylvania legalized casino gambling in 2004. Under Act 71, casinos pay a 55% tax on slot machine revenue to the state, which funds school property tax relief & pays the debt service on convention centers in Philadelphia & Pittsburgh. It also supports horseracing to the tune of \$3 billion over the last 15 years.



## NOBODY'S WATCHING

Racetracks had empty stands before COVID-19. Races are run for the benefit of gamblers at out-of-state casinos and off-track betting parlors. Attendance is higher for the Williamsport Crosscutters minor league baseball team than it is at all six Pennsylvania racetracks combined (*see reverse*).

While our communities are ravaged by COVID-19, unemployment rolls grow and public schools struggle to provide students with the resources they need to succeed, wealthy horse owners collect tens of thousands of dollars on a single race—courtesy of the taxpayers of Pennsylvania.

Last year, Pennsylvania spent more than \$240 million in tax dollars on horse racing.

Without these subsidies tracks that would long ago have closed—as fans turn their backs on this sport—are propped up using funds that should go to support Pennsylvania's schools.

**Urge Your Lawmakers to End This Subsidy Once and For All**





### **LIFESTYLES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS** //

Tax dollars that could be going to reduce college debt, pay for pre-k or reduce inequitable school funding are going to pay private horseman’s associations to run races, purses to winning horse owners, and breeders incentives. Each year, taxpayers give more than \$80 million to wealthy out-of-state horse owners who can shell out \$50,000 to buy and support a horse. Your tax dollars pay for a hobby that few Pennsylvanians can afford.



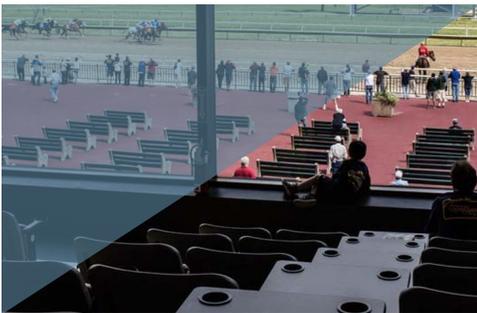
### **THE FIX IS IN FOR HORSE BREEDERS** //

A handful of horse breeders earn tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars in “incentives” for horses bred in Pennsylvania. But the system is rigged: a PA-bred horse can also be a Kentucky-bred horse and collect bonuses in both states.



### **A BIG PRICE TAG, BUT LITTLE BENEFIT** //

The \$240-million annual horse racing subsidy is the biggest economic incentive program in the state. Tourism gets \$18 million and generates 310,000 jobs while horseracing creates just 10,000. Most racing jobs are part time and pay low wages. Recreational horse competitions — which receive no taxpayer subsidy — have a bigger economic impact.



### **LEADING THE NATION...IN DEAD HORSES** //

While Santa Anita rightfully captured the nation’s attention (and ire) with its deadly meet last spring, the track that recorded the most deaths (59) in 2019 was Parx in Bucks County. Taken as a whole, Pennsylvania race tracks average over 100 dead horses annually. Nationally, that figure is over 2,000. But that’s just on-track: Each year, multiple thousands more are brutally and violently slaughtered when deemed no longer profitable.



### **WHO CARES ABOUT KIDS ANYWAY?** //

Pennsylvania can only afford to send half the eligible children to preschool. Our college graduates have the second highest loan debt in the nation. We rank 44 out of 50 states in funding support for public schools. Tell lawmakers to make a choice and fund kids over horse racing.

*Education Voters of PA is a statewide, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization. Our work focuses on securing adequate and equitable state funding for public education and promoting sound education policy that will help eliminate deep disparities in access to quality educational resources that leave low-income students and students of color behind. Education Voters of PA is a project of the Keystone Research Center.*