



**HUMANE SOCIETY
VETERINARY MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION**

Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association Statement of Opposition to 'Ag-Gag' Laws

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The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) opposes so-called 'ag-gag' laws, legislation aimed at stopping whistle-blowing on industrial farms by criminalizing investigations that reveal animal abuse and suppressing critical information about the production of animal products at these agricultural facilities.

Historically, whistle-blowing employees have repeatedly exposed animal abuse, unsafe working conditions, public health violations, and environmental problems on factory farms. Rather than trying to prevent these abuses, animal agribusiness is now focused on silencing whistle-blowers and preventing the public from learning about these abuses in the first place by enacting ag-gag laws. Despite variation in legislative language, all ag-gag laws are intended to shield animal agribusiness from public scrutiny by punishing whistleblowers and insulating animal abusers from prosecution.

HSVMA has joined a national coalition representing a wide spectrum of public interests in opposing existing and proposed ag-gag laws throughout the country. The coalition, designed to educate the public and combat these harmful pieces of legislation, include a number of animal welfare organizations such as, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), Farm Sanctuary, In Defense of Animals, Mercy for Animals and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). In addition to animal organizations, the coalition includes groups representing civil liberties, public health, food safety, environmental, food justice, legal, workers' rights and First Amendment interests.

The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association (HSVMA) is a national organization of veterinary professionals with a focus on improving the health and welfare of all animals, including farmed animals. HSVMA membership includes approximately 4,200 veterinarians, veterinary technicians and assistants, and veterinary students.