

Attention! Update on Ag-Gag Bills - What You Should Know and What You Can Do



Good News And Bad News on State "Ag-gag" Bills

Undercover investigators and journalists have successfully exposed horrific cruelty in the animal agriculture industry. Instead of improving conditions for animals and workers, "Big Ag" is drawing a curtain over their dirty operations with whistleblower suppression legislation - "ag-gag" bills. These bills make it illegal to document with video or photos any animal agriculture operations. This is a blatant violation of free speech rights and an attack on brave activists and journalists who risk their personal safety to expose the horrible cruelty of factory farms.

Ten states have introduced ag-gag legislation. Iowa passed an ag-gag bill earlier this month. While this is the first such bill to pass in a few years, it is not the first ever. Kansas, Montana and North Dakota passed similar legislation a few years ago. However, the recent Iowa bill sets a bad precedent for the other bills moving through the states. Utah's bill passed the House and Senate and is on the governor's desk - we want a veto. **[If you are a Utah resident, please tell the governor to veto this bill.](#)** If he doesn't veto the bill within the next two weeks, it automatically becomes law. There is some good news. Ag-gag bills in Florida, Indiana and Illinois all failed. Tennessee's is expected to die in committee soon. Other states are pending, but there is no swift movement - a good sign. IDA is part of a large coalition of groups monitoring these dangerous bills, and we will continue to inform you of any action you can take. Ag-gag legislation is being condemned by freedom of speech groups as unconstitutional. It is designed to keep consumers and the public in the dark about what is really going on in factory farms. The public has the right to know about illegal and unethical practices on farms including food safety issues, environmental degradation, and blatant animal abuse. Lawmakers should be holding animal agribusiness accountable for cruelty - not preventing the public from viewing it.

More info here - [Source: In Defense of Animals](#)

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Ag-Gag Bills Hit Roadblocks in Illinois and Indiana, Move Forward in Utah

By Nathan Runkle



On Wednesday, Mercy For Animals and other major animal protection organizations praised the Illinois Judiciary Law Committee for tabling anti-whistleblower legislation known as H.B. 5143.

Much like the harmful and unconstitutional law that recently went into effect in Iowa, H.B. 5143 sought to criminalize those who expose animal abuse, unsafe working conditions, environmental destruction, and other illegal and unethical activities on farms. Tabling the bill essentially removes it from consideration.

Thankfully, similar whistleblower-suppression legislation in Indiana — S.B. 184 — has also been halted after dying in committee last week.

"We applaud Illinois and Indiana legislators for listening to the will of the people and abandoning these dangerous and ill-conceived bills, rather than caving to the corrupt motives of the factory farming lobby," said MFA's Executive Director Nathan Runkle. "Truth and transparency in food production are vital to the integrity of our nation's food supply," he added.

While we're heartened by the decisions made by the Illinois Judiciary Law Committee and the Indiana legislature, we're disappointed that the Utah state legislature has apparently bowed to the pressure of corporate factory farming interests by passing anti-whistleblower legislation known as H.B. 187.



At a recent press conference held in Salt Lake City, MFA screened video footage from undercover investigations to illustrate the pressing need for whistleblowers. Speaking out against H.B. 187, Runkle

explained that it serves as "a thinly veiled" attempt to shield animal abusers from public scrutiny. "This bill is dangerous, and an outrage, and we urge Governor Herbert to veto it," he stated.

Take Action:

Utah residents, [please click here to let Governor Herbert know that documenting animal abuse is not a crime.](#) You can also call Governor Herbert at (800) 705-2464 and urge him to veto H.B. 187.

More info here - [Source: Mercy for Animals](#)

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The **Eugene Veg Education Network (EVEN)** is an **official 501(c)(3)** non-profit based in Eugene serving as a resource for those seeking information on a **healthful, vegan lifestyle**. EVEN's emphasis is one of **non-violence, compassion and sustainability**. Focus is on the **interconnectedness of all life** and how a plant-based diet benefits the earth, non-human animals, and the individual. EVEN's Mission Statement is **to inform, educate & encourage our members**--- as well as the larger community ---by providing pertinent information on veganism and its positive impact on the health of the planet and all its inhabitants. www.eugeneveg.org **Peace.**