



Marino Introduces 3rd Bill

HR2492 Cracks Down on Spectators at Animal Fights

U.S. Rep. Tom Marino, PA-10, along with U.S. Rep. Betty Sutton, OH-13, have introduced legislation that makes it a federal offense to attend an organized animal fight and imposes additional penalties for taking minors to such events.

HR 2492, the Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act of 2011, complements state laws that address spectators at animal fights and takes it a step further by penalizing adults who expose children to these heinous acts.

Organized animal fighting is a federal crime and illegal in all states but the issue of spectators at these events is not addressed on the federal level. It is illegal in 49 states to be a knowing spectator at animal fights; 28 states impose felony-level penalties on spectators.

“As a former state and federal prosecutor, I’ve seen first-hand the criminal culture that surrounds animal fighting events and the damaging influence this environment has on our children,” Marino said. “We try to protect our kids from criminal violence and yet there are no consequences for those adults who take impressionable children to animal

fights where they can witness these heinous acts in person.”

The Marino-Sutton bill is a bipartisan effort (Marino is a Republican, Sutton a Democrat). The law would not apply to individuals who are not aware that they are attending an animal fight or to situations where two animals fight without provocation by animal fighting organizers.

Because organized animal fighting is illegal, the activity is highly clandestine. Spectators don’t accidentally happen upon a fight – they seek out the criminal activity at secret locations, often need passwords to enter, and pay hefty admission fees for the opportunity to watch and gamble on the fights.

When active animal fighting operations are raided, it is a common practice for the organizers, promoters, and animal owners to blend into the crowd in order to shield themselves from law enforcement.

The bill has the support of The Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society Legislative Fund.



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Frosh: ‘Show Us The Plan’

In the middle of the lengthy discussions about budget deals and the debt ceiling, a group of freshman members of the House headed to the White House to demand that President Obama provide his plan for the crisis. The representatives took turns speaking at the impromptu gathering held in front of the White House. [Read the story here.](#)

REP. MARINO’S RECENT VOTES:

S365: Budget Control Agreement, cuts federal spending by more than \$900 billion initially with deeper cuts planned; caps future spending, advances cause of balanced budget amendment; requires a vote on a balanced budget amendment.

HS627: Budget Control Act of 2011, with no tax increase, cuts and caps spending; provides for a balanced budget amend-

ment.

R2560: Cut, Cap and Balance Act, cuts total spending by \$111 billion in fiscal year 2012; caps spending; requires passage of a balanced budget amendment before raising the nation’s debt limit.

HR33: Amends Securities Act of 1933 to allow church pension plans to join other plans in a collective trust fund to invest.

HR2553: Provides for temporary extension for eight weeks of certain

FAA authorities.

HR2551: Cuts legislative branch spending by 6.4 percent.

HR1383: Restores the GI Bill Fairness Act in regard to educational assistance funding.

HR1933 & HR398: Amendments to the Immigration & Nationality Act.

HR2715 provides the Consumer Product Safety Commission with greater authority and discretion regarding consumer product safety laws.



Tom’s Scrapbook

Rep. Marino and his wife Edie march in the Montrose 4th of July Parade, at left. Top left: the congressman congratulates the Minicozzis, the Pennsylvania Family Coalition’s Family of the Year. Above, Rep. Marino meets with a member of the Pennsylvania delegation of the Am-Heart Advocacy.

