

Statement by Entertainment Industry Professionals in Support of SB 716 (elephant protection)

July 7, 2015

We, the undersigned entertainment industry professionals urge California to enact Senate Bill 716, a bill by Senator Ricardo Lara to prohibit use of the bullhook on elephants. We agree that the bullhook is an outdated and inhumane device that unnecessarily subjects elephants to fear and pain and that it has no place in the great state of California. There is no excuse for treating elephants cruelly for entertainment's sake.

We strongly agree with the following facts that support passage of this bill:

Elephants need to be protected from the bullhook. The bullhook is an archaic weapon designed to inflict pain on these highly intelligent and sensitive animals. Beginning when elephants are very young, handlers jab, hook and strike them with the bullhook to teach them to fear the device. From then on, the bullhook is a powerful reminder of the painful punishment that follows if an elephant so much as misses a cue, doesn't move fast enough, or steps out of line.

Modern elephant training methods exist that are safer and more humane for elephants and humans alike. Today, zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and bona fide sanctuaries in California use positive reinforcement and food rewards to train elephants, while providing excellent care. None of them use the bullhook.

The bullhook is used behind the scenes to train and punish elephants. The worst abuses take place away from the view of the public and law enforcement. The only sure way to protect elephants is to prohibit use of the bullhook.

The times are changing when it comes to the use and treatment of elephants in entertainment. The cities of Los Angeles - the entertainment capital of the world - and Oakland have prohibited the bullhook, and San Francisco banned all performing wild animal acts. More than 40 municipalities across the U.S. have similar restrictions. The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus will end its elephant acts by 2018. We don't need to abuse elephants with bullhooks to entertain the world.

California must ensure the humane treatment of elephants by enacting SB 716 and prohibiting use of the bullhook.

Signed,

Lee Aronsohn Co-creator, *Two and A Half Men*, *Big Bang Theory*, *Mike and Molly*, *Mom*

Bob Barker, Emmy Award and Lifetime Achievement Award Winner, Television Host, Producer, Actor

Kim Basinger, Actress, Academy Award Winner

Kristin Bauer van Straten, Actress, *HBO's True Blood*, *Once Upon A Time*

Marissa Berlin, Writer and Script Coordinator, *Baby Daddy*, *Kirby Buckets*

Jason Biggs, Actor, *Orange Is the New Black*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* TV series

Leslie Bohem, Writer and Producer, *Extant*, *Dante's Peak*, *Daylight*

Henri Bollinger, President, Henri Bollinger Associates

Brannon Braga, Writer and Producer, *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*, *24*, *Threshold*, *Mission Impossible 2*, *Star Trek Next Generation Enterprise* and *Voyager*

Lesley-Ann Brandt, Actress, *Spartacus*, *The Librarians*, *Single Ladies*

Scott Budnick, Executive Producer, *The Hangover Parts I, II, and III*

Scott Z. Burns, Writer and Producer, *The Bourne Ultimatum, The Informant, Contagion, An Inconvenient Truth*

George Davis, Attorney, Nelson Davis, LLP

Lauren Shuler Donner, Producer, *X-Men Origins: Wolverine, X-Men: Days of Future Past, The Wolverine, Free Willy*

Richard Donner, Director and Producer, *Lethal Weapon, Lethal Weapon 3, Goonies, Free Willy*

Laney Fichera, Television Host and Correspondent, Producer; *Extra, E!, Hard Copy, Infanity, TV Guide Network*

Jorja Fox, Actress, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, ER, West Wing*

Sarah Goldfinger, Producer, *Grimm, Hawaii Five-0, Parenthood, CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, Brothers & Sisters*

Mitchell Gossett, Head Talent Agent, CESD

Anastasia Griffith, Actress, *Once Upon A Time, Copper, Royal Pains, Trauma, Damages*

Javier Grillo-Marxauch, Producer, *The 100, Helix, Lost, Medium*

Woody Harrelson, Actor

Tyler Hilton, Actor and Singer-songwriter, *Extant, One Tree Hill, Walk the Line*

Anjelica Huston, Actress and Director, Academy Award Winner

Frank John Hughes, Actor, *24, The Sopranos*

Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver, Writers and Producers, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes, Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*

Erik Jendresen, Writer and Producer, *Big Bang, Killing Lincoln, Band of Brothers*

Jesse V. Johnson, Stunt Performer and Coordinator, Director

Gloria Calderon Kellett, Producer and Writer, *iZombie, Mixology, Rules of Engagement, How I Met Your Mother, Devious Maids*

Kat Kramer, Actress and Producer

Mrs. Stanley Kramer, Director of the Stanley Kramer Film Museum

Delfin Labao, Costumer, *Timeline, Lethal Weapon 4, Conspiracy Theory*

Cece Neber Labao, Actress, *Lethal Weapon 4, Conspiracy Theory*

Bonnie-Jill Laflin, NBA Scout, Los Angeles Lakers

Stephen Liska, Actor, *Assassins, Beverly Hills Cop II, Star Trek III: The Search for Spock*

Jessica Lu, Actress, *Awkward, Storytellers*

James Madio, Actor, *Band of Brothers, The Basketball Diaries, Hook*

Shirley Manson, Actress, Composer and Singer (*Garbage*); *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles*

Kate Mara, Actress, *House of Cards*

Merrill Markoe, Five-time Emmy Award-winning Television Writer, Author

Ross McCall, Actor, *Band of Brothers, White Collar, 24: Live Another Day*

Charles McDougall, Director, *Resurrection, Secrets and Lies, The Office, Parks and Recreation, Desperate Housewives*

Erin McPherson, Chief Content Officer, Maker Studios

Rose McGowan, Actress, *Chosen, Charmed, Once Upon A Time, Nip/Tuck*

Lea Michele, Singer-songwriter and Actress; *Glee*

Jenny Mollen, Actress, *Girls, Crash*

Sarah Jane Morris, Actress, *NCIS, Brothers & Sisters, Seven Pounds*

Kevin Nealon, Actor, Writer and Comedian, *Weeds, Saturday Night Live*

Sheila Nevins, President, HBO Documentary Films

Danielle Nicolet, Actress, *The Game, Third Rock From the Sun, X-Men TV Series*

Edward Norton, Actor, *Birdman, Primal Fear, American History X*

Hawk Ostby and Mark Fergus, Writers, *Iron Man, Children of Men, Cowboys & Aliens*

Tom Pabst, Writer, *Paranormal Activity 2, Extant*

Erik Palladino, Actor, *NCIS: Los Angeles, ER*

Gavin Polone, Producer, Director and Agent, *Curb Your Enthusiasm, Gilmore Girls, Zombieland, Panic Room*

Nikki Reed, Actress, *Twilight*

Ilyse Reutlinger, Post Production Supervisor, *Lethal Weapon 4, Conspiracy Theory*

Oren Segal, Agent, Radius Entertainment

Jessy Schram, Actress, *The Lizzie Borden Chronicles, Once Upon A Time, Falling Skies, Mad Men*

Naren Shankar, Producer and Writer, *The Expanse, Grimm, CSI:Crime Scene Investigation, The Outer Limits, Star Trek Next Gen*

Jack Shepherd, Editorial Director, BuzzFeed

Sia, Singer-songwriter

Gianna Sobol, Writer, *The Returned, Extant, Counterpart*

Ian Somerhalder, Actor, *The Vampire Diaries*

Hilary Swank, Actress, Academy Award Winner

Brian Tee, Actor, *Jurassic World, The Wolverine, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 2*

Betty Thomas, Director, Producer and Actress, *Hill Street Blues, Audrey,*

Lily Tomlin, Actress, Comedienne, Producer

Mary Vernieu, Casting Director

Greg Walker, Producer and Writer, *Without a Trace, Smallville, Vegas*

Mike White, Actor, Director, Writer and Producer, *School of Rock, Enlightened*

Ron Yerxa, Producer, *The Leftovers, Nebraska, The Switch, Little Miss Sunshine, Cold Mountain, Election*

Ronnie Yeskel, Casting Director, *Pulp Fiction, Reservoir Dogs*