



*California state senator Ricardo Lara, pictured above holding a bullhook, has introduced SB 1062, legislation to ban this steel-tipped weapon used to dominate and control elephants through pain and fear. Seated next to Senator Lara is Oakland Zoo President and CEO Dr. Joel Parrott.*

## Senator Ricardo Lara Introduces Legislation To Ban Elephant Bullhook in California

California state senator Ricardo Lara (D-Bell Gardens) has again introduced legislation to ban the use of cruel bullhooks on elephants, [SB 1062](#). Our supporters may recall that PAWS, working together with The Humane Society of the U.S. and the Oakland Zoo, passed a bullhook bill last year. Unfortunately, Governor Jerry Brown vetoed the bill because it called for criminal penalties. This new bill is a non-criminal version of last year's bill, which we hope to again pass and send to the Governor's desk. **But we will need your help to get there!**

The bullhook is a steel-tipped weapon resembling a fireplace poker that is used to dominate and control elephants through pain and fear. Handlers use the bullhook to forcefully prod, hook and strike elephants on sensitive parts of their bodies during training, performances and routine handling. Even when not in

### THE BULLHOOK

It's been around for thousands of years, and throughout its history has been called an *ankusha*, an *ankus*, a *bullhook*, a *goad*, a *hook*, a *prod*, and a *guide*. **Whatever the name, to an elephant it means PAIN. We call it a weapon.**

**Ban the bullhook  
in California!**  
**Yes on SB 1062**



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use, the bullhook is a constant reminder of the painful punishment that can be delivered at any time.

PAWS has worked with elephants for more than 30 years, and even though we care for bulls and highly dangerous elephants, we do not use a bullhook. No AZA-accredited zoo in California uses this cruel and archaic weapon.

Today, there is a more modern and humane way of managing elephants that uses positive reinforcement training, food treats and gentle words of encouragement. With this method, excellent husbandry and veterinary care are provided without the use of intimidation and painful punishment.

The cities of Los Angeles and Oakland prohibit use of the bullhook, and San Francisco has prohibited the use of all performing wild animals. We will need the help of all California residents to make our state the first in the nation to ban the bullhook!

### **What you can do right now**

**Be sure to "like" [PAWS' Facebook page](#)**, where we will be posting the latest information on how Californians can help pass this important bill.

**Stay tuned for PAWS alerts** containing information on contacting your elected officials, urging them to support SB 1062.

**If you don't live in California**, but know friends and family who do, please alert them to SB 1062. Or **consider working to pass a ban on bullhooks in your area**.

For more information, please contact Catherine Doyle, PAWS' director of science, research and advocacy, at [cdoyle@pawsweb.org](mailto:cdoyle@pawsweb.org).