

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel) on Wednesday joined colleagues as an original cosponsor of new legislation that would make it illegal to videotape and distribute so-called "animal crush" videos.

The bill, introduced Wednesday afternoon by Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-Calif.), is in response to a Tuesday Supreme Court decision that struck down an earlier law banning animal cruelty videos.

In addition to supporting Rep. Gallegly's bill (H.R. 5092), Rep. Farr will continue to work with colleagues to craft broader anti-cruelty legislation to make all animal cruelty videos illegal. Rep. Farr released the following statement on the issue:

"I supported the original legislation in 1999 that effectively eliminated an entire category of videos depicting cruelty to animals. The Supreme Court on Tuesday offered a narrow ruling that allows for new legislation to effectively cover the same ground.

"The bill introduced today is a good start, and I will be involved in efforts to broaden that ban in the weeks to come.

"Filming and distributing cruelty to animals in order to profit from some foul sense of gratification is not free speech, it's a crime. If we can't say no to these vile acts and those who profit from them, I say we're way off track as a society."

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