



Professional Association of
Therapeutic Horsemanship
International

*A non-profit
organization*

*Ensuring excellence
and changing lives
through equine-
assisted activities
and therapies*

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May 1, 2013

The Honorable Dr. Michael C. Burgess
2336 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Dr. Burgess,

On behalf of Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) I am writing in support of HR 1705 coming before the House of Representatives.

The Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International is a voluntary membership organization of instructors and therapeutic horsemanship centers that work with individuals with all kinds of disabilities. Formed in 1969, PATH Intl. (formerly NARHA) certifies instructors and accredits therapeutic centers to offer best practices in the field of therapeutic horsemanship.

The centers of the association offer therapeutic riding, vaulting, carriage driving, hippotherapy, mental health therapy and equine assisted learning. We work with all kinds of disabilities: physical, cognitive and mental. Our total number of participants at all 842 centers is 54,272.

Hippotherapy is offered at participating centers with physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists. In fact, in a recent survey, 648 centers responded out of our 842 centers around the country, and 177 provide hippotherapy. 178 of our centers provide a veterans program. Those centers serve 17,396 clients or an average of 98 participants per center. PATH Intl. has 283 registered therapists as members: PT's, OT,s and SLP's.

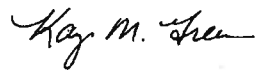
We have a partnership with Wounded Warrior Project to provide funding for wounded military and veterans. Our standards are so well thought of that WWP will only use PATH Intl. centers and instructors.

Over the years our members and centers have seen excellent progress made in the area of Hippotherapy with individuals who have physical disabilities. Our centers and instructors work with therapists to develop the treatment plan for each client. We closely align with the American Hippotherapy Association.

So many military, veterans and their families can find improvement with this form of therapy and the only drawback is that it is not covered by TRICARE. We are clearly in support of your bill.

If there is anything that we can do to further help, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kay Marsh Green
CEO

KMG/map

Cc: The Honorable Thomas Cotton
Mr. Jeremy Hilton
Marcella C. Burke



Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship

Ensuring excellence and changing lives through equine-assisted activities and therapies

P.O. Box 33150, Denver, CO 80233, (800) 369-7433 (RIDE)

www.pathintl.org

Year Founded: 1969

Mission Statement: PATH Intl. changes and enriches lives by promoting excellence in equine-assisted activities.

PATH Intl. Vision Statement: PATH Intl. is the global authority, resource and advocate for equine-assisted activities and therapies and the equines in this work that inspires and enriches the human spirit.

About PATH Intl.: PATH Intl. was formed in 1969 as the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association to promote equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. With almost 850 member centers, 54,272 children and adults find a sense of independence through involvement with horses. These member centers range from small, one-person programs to large operations with several instructors and therapists. In addition to horseback riding, a center may offer any number of equine-assisted activities such as driving, vaulting, trail riding, competition, ground work or stable management. Through a wide variety of educational resources, the association helps individuals start and maintain successful programs. There are nearly 45,000 volunteers, 4,397 instructors, 6,343 equines and thousands of contributors from all over the world making a difference in people's lives at PATH Intl. centers.

2011 PATH Intl. Statistics

Data valid as of 12/31/11 based on 648 centers reporting statistics

Total Center Members: 842

Not-For-Profit Centers	600
Accredited Centers	228

Total Equines: 6,343

Horses	5,013
Ponies	1,081
Minis	272
Donkeys	74
Mules	45

Total Individual Members

7,554

Total PATH Intl. Certified Instructors: 4,397

Certified Driving Instructors	62
Certified Vaulting Instructors	21

Total Number of Employees

3,005

Total Centers Offering Internships	352
Total Number of Center Volunteers	44,709
Total Value* of Volunteer Hours	\$2,423,832,266

*The value of volunteer hours is based on the number of volunteers X center reported volunteer time X \$21.79 as stated by independent sector

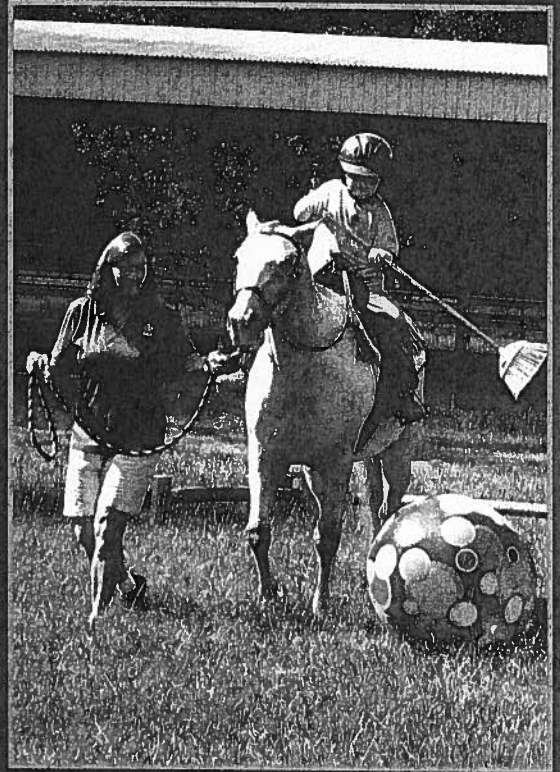
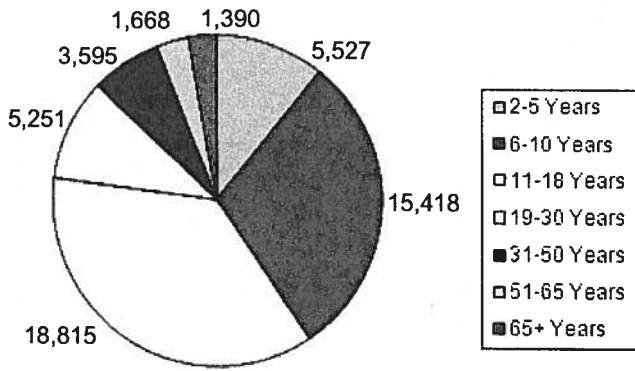


PATH Intl. Centers Offering Specialty Programs

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Hippotherapy	168	227	184	187	177
Equine-Facilitated Learning	110	140	185	172	197
Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy	54	77	83	85	96
Driving	46	54	51	48	49
Interactive Vaulting	45	65	46	40	34
Veterans Programs	---	---	89	154	178

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Participants by Age



PATH Intl. Centers Partnering with Community Organizations:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Schools/Universities	261	343	266	337	371
Rehab Centers	112	151	152	145	179
Group Homes	277	351	253	371	388
Govt. Agencies	143	197	170	241	221
Nursing Homes	30	37	39	63	71
Hospices	21	23	23	34	42
Hospitals	72	87	76	106	124
Total	916	1,189	979	1,297	1,396

PATH Intl. Centers with participant waiting lists: 296
Individuals on waiting lists: 5,827
Total Number of Participants: 54,272

Special Needs Served

