

# The SWIMS ACT

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## Whales are proven to be among the most intelligent species

- Scientific studies have shown that certain cetaceans - namely orcas, beluga whales, pilot whales, and false killer whales - are cognitively, emotionally, and socially complex animals.
- They are able to engage in creative problem solving, intentional communication, show empathy and complex emotions for others, and form lifelong bonds.

## Whales cannot thrive in captivity

- For decades, these species have been held captive for display, where they are exploited, sometimes isolated, and often die prematurely.
- Science increasingly supports that these species - due to their cognitive sophistication, sociality, wide-ranging nature, and size - suffer in captivity, where they often engage in behavior indicative of suffering and distress.
- Current federal laws allow these whales to be confined in concrete tanks that fail to meet their basic psychological, physical, and social needs.

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**THERE ARE ROUGHLY 50 WHALES LIVING IN CAPTIVITY  
IN THE UNITED STATES**

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The **Strengthening Welfare in Marine Settings (SWIMS) Act** would end the future capture and breeding of these whale species for public display.

## Specifically, the bill would:

- ✓ Amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to prohibit the taking, importation, or exportation of these whales for the purpose of public display.
- ✓ Amend the Animal Welfare Act to prohibit any breeding of these whales for future public display.
- ✓ Allow exemptions for animals being transported to a sanctuary setting or released to the wild.

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