



February 11, 2018

Re: HB 2545 OPPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY
House Federal and State Affairs

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

I am writing you today to ask that you **OPPOSE HB 2545**, a bill that would bring back greyhound racing to Sedgwick County and the state of Kansas. My name is Alitia McMullen and I am a Board Member for Beauties and Beasts, Inc., Wichita, Kansas.

For several years, the Greyhound Bill has been introduced in some fashion. Each of those years, the Greyhound bill has been defeated. So, I respectfully ask, why are we here AGAIN discussing live greyhound racing? Your constituents have made it clear that greyhound racing is not wanted here in Kansas. This year's version of the bill is even more horrific – it is making live greyhound racing MANDATORY. Have you seen how troublesome that has been in Florida? Florida is losing \$30 million dollars annually. That's a fact. Who is going to be accountable for that kind of loss if that happens here in Kansas? Florida has YEARS of data to prove that greyhound racing is a dying industry.

I am also very concerned about the already overwhelmed shelters and rescues here in Sedgwick County. We recently met with Wichita Animal Services, a high Kill shelter, to see how we can possibly have more time to network death row dogs and the Captain and Lieutenant were stunned to find out legislators are considering opening the track here in Sedgwick County. They apparently did not get the memo. It is obvious if greyhound racing returns to Sedgwick County, it will affect our entire community – Wichita Animal Services, Sedgwick County Animal Control, rescues, shelters, fosters and those that donate to our cause – YOUR constituents.

I haven't even addressed the horrid and awful treatment greyhounds receive living their lives training just to race and then be thrown away when they are no longer useful. I don't know if you have noticed, but Wichita is quite passionate about their companion animals – dogs and cats- and we do not intend to sit by quietly while dogs have any exposure to cruel and inhumane treatment. Our 45,000 FB Followers also care about what goes on in Wichita. They will be kept informed every step of the way on what happens in Topeka.

Greyhound racing is inhumane and not the magical answer to our billion-dollar deficit problem. I urge you to **OPPOSE HB 2545**.

Sincerely,
Alitia McMullen
Board Member, Beauties and Beasts, Inc., Wichita, KS