

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 and horse racing to Kansas.

As President of Kansas K-9 ResQ, a dog lover and a horse lover, this issue is very important to me and all of the volunteers and supporters of our organization.

Any industry that encourages the breeding of animals for racing inherently overproduces in search of those few winning dogs or horses. While those few champions may be allowed to live life without pain and suffering or an early death, what becomes of those who don't measure up to the rigors of racing? Currently, those who rescue the unwanted dogs and puppies in our communities are full and sometimes pushed past the breaking point in our work. The number of unwanted horses is evidenced by the hundreds of thousands who are sent to Mexico or Canada for slaughter; and the abused, neglected horses that find their way to rescues. HB 2545 doesn't attempt to address these concerns.

When Kansas became one of our country's largest producers of companion animals, our collective compassion for the welfare of the animals in our care became nonexistent. This proposal that even more dogs and horses be bred to fill the State's coffers would dismay the citizens of Kansas if they were aware of the impact it will certainly have on the rescues that deal with the throwaways.

After looking at the proposed bill, it is obvious that the racing industry is not projected to financially stand on its own. Electronic gaming is being used to prop up the revenues so they can open the doors of the racing facilities, and hopefully, keep them open.

My question is, why not just increase the electronic gaming industry in the state? Without having to prop up the expected racing losses, even more revenue should be available.

I ask you to OPPOSE HB 2545. Please do not let greyhound racing return to Kansas.

Respectfully,

Toni Wenger, President

Kansas K-9 ResQ, Inc.

tlwengster@gmail.com