



February 12, 2019

House Judicial Committee

Representative Patton and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on today's hearing for House Bill 2206. I am the Kansas Senior State Director for the Humane Society of the United States. My written testimony on behalf of our Kansas members, supporters and advocates is in favor of HB 2206.

One of the greatest obstacles preventing law enforcement from enforcing the Kansas Animal Cruelty Statute is the debilitating costs associated with caring for abused and neglected animals. While our state does have a Cost of Animal Care section in the Animal Cruelty Statute, there have been issues regarding enforcement as you will hear today.


In 2017, the Cost of Animal Care section was updated to include municipal shelters, veterinarians and law enforcement. Up to that point, only 501 (c) 3 shelters could seek payment for animals that had been lawfully seized.

Recent cases in Kansas have shown that necessary changes are needed to recover funds expended for animal care; specifically, allowing a petition for relinquishment in the county in which the animals were seized.

HB 2206 will also correct the renewable cash bond issue and will allow funds to go to the entities that incurred costs in the housing and care of the animals.

I ask that you support and pass HB 2206. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


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