Chair Schwartz and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lea Ann Eichem and I am a life long resident of Kansas and Director of Paws to Love Animal Rescue. Not only have I lived my entire life in this state I have devoted much of my life to trying to make it a better place for animals. I became involved in animal rescue not by choice but by necessity. When I was 18 years old I happened to be driving through a park in Manhattan early in the evening. While driving through the park I witnessed a man hanging his dog as punishment for not doing what was ask of it to do. Being an animal lover from an early age I immediately parked then confronted the man about what he was doing. Maybe not the smartest move on my part however I was not going to do nothing. Long story short the man was arrested, the dog lived his remaining days in a safe loving home. An animal rescuer was born that day, that has been fighting for animal rights since.

I ask that you pass HB2175 to outlaw or ban the use of carbon monoxide as a form of euthanasia. Not only is this a barbaric as well as a horrific way for an animal to die it is no longer cost effective. Sadly since I have become involved in animal rescue not much has changed in this state. Having dealt with rescue groups across the country I have been ask hundreds of times why the state of Kansas does nothing to help animals. By passing this bill you will be showing not only Kansan that you do care about animals you will be showing the rest of the country as well.

Animal rescue is a very emotionally charged job, from the animal control officers, shelter works, or rescue groups no one wants to see animals die needlessly. We are all smart enough to know that we can not save every unwanted animal, however so many of us feel that every animal in a shelter should be treated with dignity not only while they are living at the shelters most importantly if they must die at a shelter.

I again ask that you pass HB2175 to ban the use of carbon monoxide euthanasia in the state of Kansas. If you find that this bill is not important enough to pass to give the animals that must die in shelters due to the irresponsibility of humans then I would suggest you go to a facility that still uses this practice and witness the horror for yourself. By doing so the next time a bill like this passes before you, you will have a full understanding of what the practice really is.

Respectfully

Lea Ann Eichem

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