

Ashley Finneran
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RE: HB 2545 OPPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY
House Federal and State Affairs

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

I am asking you to **OPPOSE HB 2545**, a bill that would reintroduce greyhound racing to Kansas.

My name is Ashley Finneran and I'm a resident of Sedgwick County – a location where one of three greyhound racetracks has been proposed for reopening.

Wichitans have voiced our collective opinion on dog racing multiple times, both in the House and with our pocketbooks. Greyhound racetracks in Kansas closed years ago, due to loss in profits and a dwindling audience. Neither I, nor the majority of Kansans, want this dying industry to be restored. We refuse to be a part of the inhumane treatment of thousands of racing dogs, who will suffer injuries and death just so businessmen, like Mr. Phil Ruffin, can have electronic gambling machines. We also do not want to be forced *once again* to rescue those thousands of stranded dogs when the industry collapses, as we did after Camptown's closing in the Fall of 2000.

Profits for the state of Kansas on the blood, sweat and tears of racing dogs will be nonexistent, being reabsorbed into regulatory costs as seen in Florida. The only one's profiting are white collar criminals committing fraud and embezzlement, like former Woodlands' owner Richard Boushka. Or lobbyists who pay themselves, and politicians given campaign budget boosts, as occurred in 1997 through Wichita Greyhound Park. Or through narcotics and steroids sales, like Jorge Anthony Hughes, former VP of Hughes Kennels at the Woodlands. Cocaine has been used in racing dogs to increase their performance, and steroids have been used to keep female dogs from going into heat.

I ask you to please **OPPOSE HB 2545**. Kansans are better than this, and we deserve better.

Respectfully,

/s/ Ashley Finneran

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