



February 11, 2018

Re: HB 2545

House Federal and State Affairs

**\*OPPONENT ORAL TESTIMONY**

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

I am speaking to 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 Kimberly Pugliese and I am a Board Member for Beauties and Beasts, Inc., Wichita, KS.

There are so many reasons this bill is not right for Kansas. I don't even know where to begin. I wish each of you could walk the halls of a death row high kill shelter and see for yourselves the overwhelming problem we have here in Kansas because of special treatment being given to breeders that already produce THOUSANDS of puppies in our state. It's even more troubling that our state promotes this kind of 'business' when it is YOUR constituents who are left to clean up the mess. It is truly a nightmare. The more I talk to Kansans about the massive amounts of puppies being produced here in Kansas, I am finding most people are horrified – they have NO idea. These dogs are bred over and over and live a life of misery and cruelty and disposed of like garbage when they are no longer of any use. Why add greyhounds to the mix?

Beauties and Beasts' Board of Directors and volunteers walk our local shelter EVERY DAY. We recently met with Wichita Animal Services, a high-volume KILL shelter, to ask for more time to network the overwhelming number of animals on death row. Both the Captain and Lieutenant were surprised to find out legislators are considering re-opening the track here in Sedgwick County. They apparently did not get the memo. Who is going to be held accountable for the increased costs to our local community to absorb the unwanted and abandoned greyhounds?

The data speaks for itself. Phil Ruffin has even stated that greyhound racing is a dying industry. Why are you even considering this? Please do not turn your heads away from the documented abuse greyhounds endure racing. Greyhound racing does not occur in Kansas today for a reason. Your constituents have spoken time and time again.

I urge you to **OPPOSE** HB 2545.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Pugliese

Board Member, Beauties and Beasts, Inc., Wichita, KS