

## Testimony in Opposition to HB 2068

**To:** Chairman John Barker  
Vice Chair Francis Awerkamp  
Members, House Federal & State Affairs Committee

**From:**

Humane Society Legislative Fund of Kansas  
Midwest Humane Society Legislative Fund of the Midwest  
Humane Society of the United States  
Kansas Animal Control Association  
Kansas City RE-GAP – Greyhound Rescue, Kansas City  
Humane Society of Greater KC, Kansas City  
Great Plains SPCA, Merriam  
The Pet Connection Olathe  
Leavenworth Co Humane Society, Leavenworth  
Southeast Kansas Humane Society, Pittsburg  
Allen County Animal Rescue Facility, La Harpe  
Animals With Our Love, Independence  
Wichita Animal Action League  
Beauties and Beasts, Wichita  
Second Chances, Wichita  
Companion Animal Protection Society of Kansas, Wichita  
K9 Karma Animal Advocates, Wichita  
Mt. Hope Animal Sanctuary, Wichita  
Kansas K9 ResQ, Wichita  
Friends of Felines, Wichita  
Heartstrings Animal Advocates, El Dorado  
Helping Hands Humane Society, Topeka  
Cattails, Manhattan  
Finney County Humane Society, Garden City  
We are A Grateful Sanctuary (WAGS), Winfield  
Hands of Hope Rescue, Great Bend  
Chasing Tails Rescue, Great Bend  
SRL – All Breed Dog Rescue, Minneapolis  
Rockin Paw Rescue, Emporia

**Re:** HB 2068

**Date:** January 30, 2019

My name is Terry Humphrey, lobbyist for the Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society Legislative Fund of Kansas. Today, I am speaking on behalf of a coalition of animal welfare organizations in Kansas who oppose greyhound racing. Please review the above list of organizations that oppose HB 2068 as written.

With respect to HB 2068, our coalition does not have a position on sports wagering. However, we do oppose the legislature offering incentives, such as the ability to offer sports wagering at greyhound racing facilities, which is an attempt to resurrect greyhound racing in Kansas. Kansans have voted with their pocket books. They did not attend greyhound races, which resulted in tracks closing more than a decade ago.

When the last greyhound racetrack closed in 2008, racetrack gambling revenue had declined by 95 percent. Over the last ten years, the country's disdain for greyhound racing has only galvanized. This past November, Floridians overwhelmingly voted to outlaw dog racing in their state, joining residents from 40 other states who also have outlawed greyhound racing due to animal cruelty issues and declining revenue. Notably, the Florida ban had broad support across geographical and political boundaries. The clear message: the public is not interested in and will not support this outdated and cruel "sport."

For these reasons, we request that racetrack gaming facilities be removed as a permissible venue for sports wagering under HB 2068. Thank you.