



House Judiciary Committee
Chairman Patton
Committee Assistant: Kathi Rakestraw

February 18, 2019

RE: HB 2243: Exempting animal shelter from registration requirements as a charitable organization.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Melissa Reed, and I am the Executive Director for Prairie Paws Animal Shelter located in Ottawa. I am writing today to testify in support of HB 2243 on behalf of animal shelters in Kansas.

Kansas animal shelters provide services to local communities for both animals and people in need. These services are costly and animal shelters must fundraise to cover these expenses. Prairie Paws Animal Shelter must raise over \$500,000 annually to provide these critical unduplicated services in our community. Please keep in mind that of the 330 animal shelters in Kansas, more than half are located in communities less than 2,000 people.

In 2016 Prairie Paws started including our in-kind gifts and services in our budget. Which meant we now figure into our annual operating costs all of our donated dog food, toys, treats, etc. as well as our robust volunteer hours. However, in doing so, this has pushed us over the \$500,000 threshold requirement for requiring an annual audit. Registering with the state requires us to have an audit performed annually instead of alternating with a review on years 2 and 3. This is extremely costly for our organization and other animal shelters. The exemption of animal shelters from registration requirements will allow more financial resources for the homeless animals and people we serve.

In closing, we need this amendment to continue providing the care that the abandoned, abused, stray animals in our community deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Reed".

Melissa Reed
Executive Director
Prairie Paws Animal Shelter