

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Testimony in support of HB2437

Wednesday March 22, 2023

Chair Rahjes and members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony.

I am a retired lawyer who has been on the boards of various charities, including 2 animal-related charities, the Kansas Humane Society and Spay/Neuter Kansas, in Wichita. Years ago, I also served on the Pet Animal Advisory Board.

I am not representing any organization. I am concerned about (1) improving conditions for animals in various facilities in Kansas, (2) increasing protection for the public, and (3) improving the reputation of Kansas with respect to animal care.

I have read HB2437 and think it is helpful with respect to all 3 of the above concerns. The following are examples in HP2437:

With respect to care of animals, there are improved standards - such as continuous access to water.

Giving the Commissioner the power to regulate exercise, socialization, disease prevention and biosecurity will benefit consumers by improving the puppies purchased and perhaps reducing the risks of disease transmission to humans.

Kansas is number 4 on the HSUS "Horrible Hundred" 2022 list for number of puppy mill dealers in the state and has been frequently listed among the states that are worst for puppy mills by various organizations. Requiring compliance with Kansas law for animals sold out of state as well as those sold in state and imposing standards that are more than the bare minimum should be helpful to improve the industry in Kansas, as will the changes in HB2437 that will facilitate enforcement.

Respectfully,

Linda K. Constable