

Good Morning,

I'm Kaylee Hurt, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak with you today.

I'm here as an individual of the horse industry in favor of Bill 241. I'm not going to stand here and talk to you about the ins and outs of this bill, with respect to your knowledge about it I would prefer to talk to you about the agricultural reason for being here.

I am 23 years old. Not many can say they've been in the horse racing business their entire life, but I can. As a child I watched my dad train and ride these amazing athletes. All I could think about was how I wanted to do that, I wanted to be able to help teach and show people what these amazing animals were born to do. That was my goal as long as I can remember. Before I was at the age of 10 I was helping my dad break babies and pony horses around the track. I was galloping race horses with my father by the age of 12, much to my Great-Grandmother's dismay. Going to the Woodlands opening day taking hours to get in the front gates due to the crowd was such a rush, thinking that so many people came to see my horses. As soon as I was old enough to pony on the track I got my pony license. I remember ponying at Eureka Downs every race. All the way home I'd be so excited with the money I earned for the day. If I was lucky and they won I'd get a little extra. All through high school that's how I made my money ponying horses and helping my dad train. Then the Woodlands closed and we only had Eureka Downs to go to in Kansas. So when Eureka closed we went north to Iowa. Dad and I lived up there a whole summer, with my mom and sisters coming on the weekends to visit us. As a young girl it's hard to see your family that is so tight-knit living 5 hours apart. I could see it was hard on my dad but that was our only option at the time. Now, we travel from Oklahoma to Iowa keeping up with the racing trail. As high school was coming to an end, I had to start looking at colleges. I had a huge opportunity to try out for the Kansas State University Equestrian Team. They knew my background with the race horses and offered me a scholarship. We qualified for Nationals all four years, winning the Reserve National Championship title my senior year. I graduated from Kansas State University in May of 2010 with an Equine Certificate and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture. I decided last spring I was going to start my own business, training horses and giving riding lessons. I am now a proud partner in my Great-Grandfathers ranch that I grew up on. On our ranch we raise cattle, train Quarter and Thoroughbred Race Horses, and recently started training performance horses. Today, I would like to talk to you about the people and businesses that are involved in keeping our ranch operating and successful.

Our day starts at feeding time. This being said, I think about the farmer that has produced our hay crop for the year, and the feed producer that we've purchased our feed from. With the truck drivers bringing our grain to the farm, it's acceptable to say the list of people involved in the simple task of feeding is in the double digits. All in all, to feed our horses twice a day takes at minimum 10 people, not to mention our own stable crew that actually does the feeding and labor each and every day.

We maintain the health and welfare of our animals by employing five veterinarians. If you take into consideration our owners vets as well as our farm vets and specialists we can easily employ a dozen veterinarians and their employees throughout the year.

We have a farrier that we use weekly on our farm, and with our owners, it's acceptable to say half a dozen farriers along with their suppliers are employed with respect to the animals we train.

When thinking about the agricultural businesses of Kansas, I cannot forget the tack and equipment dealers that are needed for us to be successful. We have about five different tack and equipment dealers in our area that we rely on for our business.

With our farm we have to consider the tractor and field machinery dealers that we not only purchase our equipment from but use for maintenance to keep our machinery repaired. We have approximately two dealers in our area that our farm can depend on for this task. With multiple employees used in just these two operations one can see that the number of employees could be close to thirty or more!

Of course there are the six trucks and four trailers that we've purchased and maintain on our farm. These are a must for transportation of our animals and equipment. With our owners bringing horses in regularly to use our facilities, this number of trucks and trailers going through our place is five times that many. Considering the automotive and trailer dealerships with their maintenance crews one can see the number of businesses and employees used in this area is huge.

There are also the Insurance companies used by our farm, as well as by our owners with regard to the animals, farms, trucks, trailers and equipment.

Another consideration is our contribution to the fuel, food and clothing businesses. You, yourselves can do the math on the entertainment we and our owners can invest while spending a weekend at the race track.

There is no question that our family farm and training stable benefits from more than forty Kansas businesses employing more than 150 people. I'm asking you to consider this fact and the thought that our dozen owners have similar type businesses they benefit from. This should clearly display to you that the entire Kansas economy can benefit when these businesses thrive.

I've grown up admiring the grass roots of Kansas and hope to influence you and others to bring racing back to Kansas. We need the understanding that the revival of horse and greyhound racing will increase the value of our horses, dogs and more importantly the agricultural businesses of Kansas.

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the future success of Kansas businesses.