

Chair Hoffman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shawna Mailman and I am currently the District Leader Volunteer for the Humane Society of the United States in the 4th Congressional district. In the past, I have worked and volunteered for the Kansas Humane Society in Wichita. I have also been a foster for the humane society and local rescues. Aside from these connections, I am writing to you as a concerned citizen and animal supporter. I am unable to attend the hearing on Wednesday, but I wanted to let you know that I support SB 47 with amendments added by the Senate Ag Committee. This bill passed out of the Senate 34-5 and has the support of the Dept of Agriculture. These amendments close inspection loopholes by establishing a uniform process of inspecting the premises of breeders and other licensees.

The Kansas Pet Animal Act has not been updated in nearly two decades and is sorely lacking in some basic necessities. These include, but are not limited to, health and safety standards that seem to be common sense, but are not currently enforceable statewide, fees for "no-contact" inspections or failed inspections to incentivize compliance, and the same rules for everyone involved.

My biggest concern with this bill, however, is that Kansas is currently ranked as the third worst state for puppy mills. Third. As someone who has worked to help end the overpopulation of animals for a decade, I'm disgusted by this statistic. Senate Bill 47 looks to reduce the number of puppy mills in Kansas, by rewarding shelters, rescues, and breeders that are doing their part and passing the requisite inspections and holding the breeders who don't pass the inspections, or who don't even show up for inspections, accountable.

Currently, there is a deficit in the budget for this program that I understand may be made up by increasing the fees for licensed shelters, rescues, and fosters. As a former and future foster parent, I can understand the need for this, and am willing to do my part... as long as breeders are treated the same. Breeders should be held to the same standards as everyone else. They should have unannounced inspections, should be made to have a designee on their application or have it denied, and have to pay a fine for a missed inspection. I know that \$30,000 last year is what it cost the department for just missed inspections. The burden of this should not fall on those that are already cooperating with the system, but on those that are not. The current status of this act is a detriment to good breeders, shelters, rescues, and mostly, the animals involved.

I ask that you support SB 47 with all of it's amendments so that we can do our part in removing the inhumane and unethical puppy mills and getting Kansas out of the top three. Let's get everyone on a level playing field and see how we can benefit animals.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I appreciate the opportunity to send in written testimony.

Sincerely,

Shawna Mailman