

Michael D Chavez, Jr
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RE: HB 2545 OPPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY
House Federal and State Affairs

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask you to **OPPOSE HB 2545**, a bill that would bring greyhound racing, along with the increased crime rates associated with such gambling facilities, back to Kansas.

My name is Michael D Chavez, Jr, a current law enforcement officer with 14 years of experience, and a resident of Sedgwick County – where a greyhound racetrack is located.

As a law enforcement officer, I am strongly opposed to this bill and it's easy to see why. Per a 2002 study by the University of Maryland, "substance abuse, mental illness, suicide, violent crime, auto theft, larceny, and bankruptcy" increased exponentially in a community allowing gambling, the latter three growing 10%. In a 2016 study by Ontario Problem Gambling Research Center, 'problem gambling' was shown to be "statistically [and] significantly associated with elevated rates of crime." In fact, crime rates were substantially affected even with distance from a gambling facility and showed "being a problem gambler increases one's likelihood of committing crime by 4.28 to 7.63 percentage points even when the nearest casino is more than [64 miles] away."

Kansas legislating the quantity of races held daily is also ethically and morally wrong. Florida has proven it only perpetuates mistreatment, abuse, and neglect of racing dogs. Also, dog racing has not been profitable for 20 years, as communities back legislation to illegalize the industry. Kansans do not want dog racing, as shown when Mr. Ruffin's Camptown closed just 74 days after opening.

Please **OPPOSE HB 2545**. Greyhound racing is a loss for us socio-economically, fiscally, and morally. Kansans can never be proud if increasing revenue relies upon the sacrifice of innocent dogs.

Respectfully,

/s/ Michael D Chavez, Jr
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