



House Federal & State Affairs Committee
Chairman Barker
Committee Assistant: Connie Bahner
VIA EMAIL

February 12, 2018

Re: Oppose House Bill 2545

My name is Mark Eby, I am the President/CEO of the Kansas Humane Society in Wichita Kansas, the largest animal shelter in the state of Kansas. Our shelter is also a member of the Midwest Animal Alliance.

I'm here today to voice my opposition to HB 2545, and express my concern about the impact it would have on my organization, and other animal shelters in Kansas. I am concerned about how greyhound racing, and the fact that even more dogs will be bred, will negatively impact us. Last year we cared for almost 16,000 animals. We found homes for 11,092. That's an increase of almost 800 animals over 2016. Kansas needs to address its overpopulation of animals and allowing an industry that is known for over breeding and discarding unwanted animals, will only contribute to our problems. Not to mention the acts of cruelty that have been witnessed in the past.

Please keep in mind that Kansas did not close racetracks down, the State did not make greyhound racing unlawful, the residents of Kansas voted with their dollars and unequivocally closed down greyhound racing. Any promise of economic growth by industry professionals to this committee completely ignores the facts. The very first addition under HB 2545 has the breed registering agencies create a plan for economic development for greyhound racing. History shows us that Kansas residents do not want greyhound racing in their communities and as such, programs drafted by these breed registering agencies will fail.

I also oppose this bill, specifically, Section 7, *requiring* Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners to hold a special election to tell us what Sedgwick County residents already have: they do not want greyhound racing in our community. As the organization responsible for treating and housing victims of animal abuse, KHS does not want to see the increase in greyhound abuse that comes with opening the racetrack. An industry that requires statutory intervention to force a special election question will not bring money to the state.

I hope you will seriously think about the consequences of bringing back greyhound racing and its impact on our state. I don't believe it is a way to improve our economy, therefore I am against the greyhound incentives in the bill.

Sincerely,


Mark Eby
President/CEO – Kansas Humane Society

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Mark Eby
President/CEO

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