

February 11, 2018

Re: HB 2545 OPPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY
House Federal and State Affairs

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

I am writing you to ask that you OPPOSE HB 2545, a bill that if passed, would bring back Greyhound dog racing in Kansas.

My name is Jennifer Sanders and I am a life long resident of Sedgwick County, a county that contains one of very few Greyhound Race Tracks in the nation. A race track that was financially successful when it was operational previously.

This issue is important to me, and I do not want Greyhound Racing to return to Sedgwick County. Greyhound Racing continues to decline across the nation for a multitude of reasons. For one, it promotes animal cruelty, over breeding and consumes already scarce resources of animal shelters and animal rescues. Sedgwick County is already facing an overpopulation of unwanted animals, and because we have a KILL shelter in Sedgwick County, animals (especially dogs) continue to face the risk of being euthanized. Animal Control is working diligently with local rescues to attempt to reduce the percentage of dogs euthanized, and the decision to bring back Greyhound Racing could impact the progress the County and rescues are currently making.

Another concern is the imposed state dog racing mandate that forces a certain number of dogs to race a mandatory number of races per day. This again, leads to animal cruelty and may cause unneeded injury to the dogs, which in turn could again increase the number of animals needlessly euthanized.

Please consider data and research the number of Greyhound Racing establishments that are continuing to close in states like Florida, because they are simply not profitable and sometimes require subsidies of county and state financial resources in order to continue operation. Those resources could be better utilized for other programs that help instead of harm animals.

I ask that you please OPPOSE HB 2545. Please do not allow Greyhound Racing to return to Sedgwick County or anywhere in our great state of Kansas.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Sanders
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