

February 10th, 2018

Re: HB 2545 OPPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

House Federal and State Affairs

I am writing to you today, requesting that you oppose HB 2545. If this bill passes through, it will allow for the re-opening of a greyhound race track.

My name is Jordan Smith, and I reside Sedgwick County, not far from where the currently closed Wichita Greyhound Park is located.

This is an issue that is extremely near and dear to my heart. I do not want to this Greyhound park re-open, as it supports breeding, gambling, and euthanasia. In middle school I participated in my Cross-Country sports team, and I had several meets that were located right next door to the park. I cannot express to you the heart break it caused me to hear the cries of these beautiful beings that were housed in not near adequate conditions, and to know the abuse that was going on in that park. Being unable to have a voice for these voiceless dogs hurt me. I am now old enough, and knowledgeable enough to say that I DO have a voice, and I will make it known. I have personal experience with the aftermath of the lives these greyhounds lived. My fiancé's family raised retired and injured racers. For privacy purposes, I will be omitting the names of their family and the dogs. One of their greyhounds was a top competitor for the Greyhound Park. He was injured in a race and they were going to breed him one more time, and then euthanize him, for the simple fact that he was injured and couldn't continue making them money. If my fiancé's family had not stepped up when they did to take him in, he would not have lived more than 1 more year. Their second greyhound was saved by the family as a puppy. When he was born, one of his back legs was stepped on and permanently injured. He was set to be euthanized within the week. Luckily the family had been notified of this and went and rescued him immediately. He was 6 weeks old when the family rescued him. If you allow the passing of HB 2545 you will be saying that you support over-breeding, destructive habits (i.e. gambling), and the killing of perfectly trainable living beings. Greyhounds are so much more than "money making machines".

I can only hope that you understand the emotion behind my testimony. I ask you one last time, please OPPOSE HB 2545. Do not be the reason that greyhound racing returns to Kansas. "Be the change you wish to see in the world" – Mahatma Ghandi.

With due respect,

Jordan Smith

Wichita, KS

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