

Chairman Kerschen and Members of the Committee

Thank you for allowing me to testify today regarding HB 2477. My name is Betty Nelson and I strongly support HB 2477 as amended by the full house.

Last year testimonies before the Committee revealed issues regarding deficiencies in the Animal Facility Inspection Program. Those deficiencies included money spent for no-contact, failed, focused inspections, and re-inspections. Subsequent legislative debate strongly supported inspections and re-inspections without raising fees for animal shelters and rescue groups.

The Kansas Pet Animal Act was created to govern the health, safety, and welfare of Kansas companion animals. The Act is currently not being enforced due to breeders receiving prior notification of an impending inspection. The State of Kansas should follow the same standard for all licensed facilities – that being inspections without prior notification.

Lets improve the principles of the Animal Facility Inspection Program by conducting all inspections without prior notification. Kansans value the Kansas Pet Animal Act because companion animals live in their homes and sleep in their beds, thus their health and welfare affect all of us.

I urge the Committee to support HB 2477 as amended by the House.

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them to the best of my abilities.

Betty Nelson