

March 6, 2018

The Honorable Dan Kerschen, et al.
Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Kansas State Senate
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: HB 2477 PROPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today to urge you to **VOTE YES ON HB 2477**, as amended by the House Committee. The safety and overall wellbeing of Kansas residents and our companion animals depends upon your support – and so do our tax dollars. These amendments will greatly increase the overall effectiveness of the AFI Program, while simultaneously reducing its current budget deficit.

Kansans deserve a government that is mindful of how our tax dollars are spent. We also expect our government to implement fair, reasonable, and --most importantly-- *enforceable* policies. HB 2477, as amended, satisfies all these terms:

- Inspection violations, no contacts, and re-inspections will now result in fines and penalties, replacing the cost of manpower time wasted by violators. It will also decrease incidences of animal neglect and/or abuse statewide, as violators are finally held accountable.
- Fees are raised moderately and fairly, without forcing the burden of paying off a deficit caused by for-profit violators, onto the backs of non-profit rescues.
- Maintaining the necessity of licenses and their fees, thus preventing unlicensed caretakers from becoming legal accessories, and uninspected properties from serving as legal hideouts to animal health and welfare violators.
- Puts an end to favoritism shown to breeders and for-profit licensees, by no longer allowing prior notice of inspection. Prior notice only supports and encourages animal neglect and abuse by giving licensees valuable time to coverup and destroy all evidence of violations.

Please give your **SUPPORT to HB 2477**, as amended by the House, and **VOTE YES** to the health and welfare of all Kansans and our companion animals.

Respectfully,

/s/ Melissa Driscoll
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