

HB 2199. February 18, 2021 Constituent Testimony - Opposition

My name is Terry Garberg. I'm a Kansas constituent and a long-standing member of Kansas City Regap.

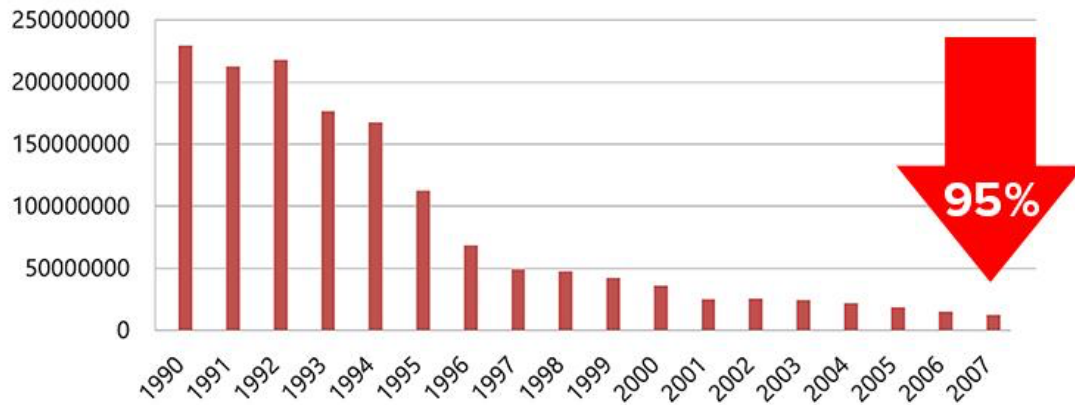
I have no objection to sports wagering in KS, but HB 2199 provides a financial incentive for dog racetracks to resume operations. I am opposed to that for the following reasons:

1. It's inhumane to greyhound dogs, as well as to the small animals used as live lures for training. Anyone who denies these proven facts at this point is either in a state of unbelievable denial, or more likely, lying for their own personal gain.
2. It's unpopular. There are many more entertaining, less controversial options available for gamblers today. Wagering on live greyhound racing in KS declined by 95% from 1990 to 2007. Thanks to declining popularity, the last race was in held August 2008. HB 2199 as written today would motivate Racinos to reopen so they could offer sports wagering. The unprofitable racing activity, and the unfortunate dogs required to race, would just be a cost of doing business. But a cost that includes real abuse to living creatures, and would bring shame to our state.
3. It's fiscally irresponsible. It will cost KS more than we could ever hope to gain from it. This revenue-losing aspect of the industry is a good reason to stay away. Monitoring all the bad actors involved takes time and money. The NGA likes to say they self-monitor. History has shown they don't.
4. It adds to our dog overpopulation problem. Greyhounds, notoriously overbred in the hope of getting a fast one, increase the burden of unwanted dogs in our state. Why re-establish an industry that purposefully breeds dogs that do not have homes?
5. It may soon be illegal anyway. Commercial dog racing is now allowed in only seven countries in the world. The U.S., with just four active tracks remaining in four different states, is likely to drop out of that group. The federal Greyhound Protection Act, H.R. 7826, will finally put an end to this abhorrent business. KS should be focused on industries that have a future, not just a sordid past.

Sports wagering may or may not be good for KS. But for these reasons and more, dog racing is definitely not.

Thank you.

Live Greyhound Racing Decline in Kansas Year-By-Year



Wagering on live greyhound racing declined by 95% from 1990-2007. The last race was held in August 2008. In the last six months of racing, 19 dogs died and 80 dogs suffered broken legs, broken backs and other injuries.