

Testimony before the House Federal & State Affairs Committee
HB 2740 – relating to authorizing Sports Betting
March 22, 2022
Mike O’Neal – Kansas Greyhound Association
Testimony in OPPOSITION to certain provisions affecting greyhounds
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Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee

My wife, Trish, and I represent the Kansas Greyhound Association, which stands in strong opposition to unnecessary and, hopefully, unintended provisions in HB 2740 that would, if left in, damage the Kansas greyhound industry and the proud heritage of this state as the Greyhound Capital and home of the Greyhound Hall of Fame.

This is a bill authorizing sports betting in Kansas. It should not be about pari-mutuel racing or simulcasting, except to the extent it involves the provisions allowing historic horse racing machines. We are neutral on those provisions. That’s Ruffin’s business. But greyhounds are our business and provisions in the bill that would affect current law regarding our industry are not germane to the subject of sports betting. Sporting events do not include gaming under the Kansas pari-mutuel racing act. We do not know where the anti-greyhound provisions in this bill came from. We hope their inclusion was unintentional. No one we’ve talked to has been willing to take credit for them.

We ask that you please don’t make any uninformed judgments about Kansas greyhounds until or unless you have had the opportunity to learn about greyhounds and tour one of their facilities. The welcome mat is always out. Trish & I have been there and believe me, if there were such a thing as reincarnation, I’d want to come back as a Kansas greyhound! They’re the sweetest athletes you’ll ever meet!

When this bill is worked, we will have a balloon amendment offered to delete these irrelevant provisions. If adopted, we would be neutral on the bill.