



March 23, 2021

Dear Senator and Members of the Committee:

I express strong support for the changes to the Kansas Dangerous Regulated Animal Act K.S.A 32-1301 through K.S.A- 32-1312.

I urge the committee to support Senate Bill 269. This bill bans the private ownership of wolves and non-human primates in Kansas and has reasonable exemptions for AZA accredited zoos. This bill will ensure that species such as chimpanzees, monkeys and wolves will only be in the hands of qualified, reasonable, and knowledgeable facilities. These animals are a threat to the safety of the citizens of Kansas and if we do not attempt to strengthen these laws it will be the community and law enforcement that have to pay the price financially and risk their lives.

One way to prevent a tragedy in Kansas is to enact sensible legislation that limits the possession of these animals to experienced, qualified and professionally-run zoological facilities, such as those accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Dangerous predatory wild animals should not be accessible to the general public.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Deborah Watkins, RVT, Animal Services

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