

March 11, 2022

Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Senator Dan Kerschen and Committee Members

RE: Oppose Senate Bill 551

Dear Senator Kerschen and Committee Members,

Hello, my name Kendra Titus I am the appointed representative on the Animal Advisory Board for licensed retail breeders.

I grew up on a large farm with livestock. We had one of the only grade A goat dairies in the state of Missouri. Formula for babies that were allergic to milk was not available. I knew the milk we provided saved lives. I was a member of 4H and high point and I showed cattle, swine, sheep, goats, welding, woodworking, cooking, sewing, and art. Later I showed my dogs at AKC shows. Over the years of taking my animals to my local vet, he would ask if I needed another dog or puppy. There would always be one that needed a home or be euthanized, I could not look at those faces and not help, so of course I found them homes.

I was appointed to the Advisory Board at the time the Kansas Pet Animal Act was being revamped. The board and the inspectors with over 20 years of knowledge reviewed the act line by line for over 5 years. We all voted to support a bill that was best for Kansas pets. When a bill finally passed, some things were put in that the board never voted on. The \$200 no contact fee for example. Senate bill 551 was not reviewed by the board prior to introduction. Based on the information provided to the board, the board voted to not support this bill during the last board meeting on March 9th.

They are proposing the program become its own division. At this time we have only 2 inspectors and 1 new director. Being under the Department of Animal Health helps the program so much. Properly funding our program allows the program to pay inspectors more. It is unnecessary to move the program and this bill is unprecedented. Allow the program to utilize proper funds as it stands.

Please vote to oppose senate bill 551. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Kendra Titus