



January 26, 2018

My name is Justin Brokar and I am the Director of Community Engagement and Development at Helping Hands Humane Society in Topeka. I am asking you to stand with Kansas nonprofit businesses and oppose HB 2477. We spend over \$4,500.00 a day to operate our shelter which cares for over 6,000 homeless pets each year.

We all know that nonprofit businesses in our state struggle to generate more revenue and keep expenses low. Animal welfare organizations invest hundreds, sometimes thousands, of dollars in each animal that comes into their care. Shelters and rescues are responsible for economic success throughout our state. When someone adopts a pet, they have a lifelong commitment which includes spending money at local businesses such as veterinary clinics, groomers, boarding facilities, and pet supply stores. For some of these businesses, an increased fee would mean less money available to rehabilitate victims of uninspected and inhumane puppy mills, less money for lifesaving veterinary care, and less money for important programs and services that they provide in communities throughout the state.

I understand the need for the Department of Agriculture to increase their revenue, but doing so on the backs of nonprofit organizations is not acceptable. Furthermore, I do not believe it

is justifiable to grant any state agency or department what they want while they are under a legislative post audit. I urge you to table this matter until the audit is complete. We need to shine some light on the inefficiencies and problems within the inspection program, then focus on correcting the problems. It is important for this audit to be completed so we can understand if the inefficiencies are a result of mismanagement or funding.

The Department should explore alternative options such as increasing the fees of facilities that fail their inspection or do not allow the state inspector to do their job. These facilities are costly to the inspection program because they require repeated inspections or attempts to inspect. The bill doesn't address bigger issues such as repeated violators and our own Kansas inspector's inability to see all veterinary records of the animals in a facility.

The Kansas Legislature should not reward bad behavior. I urge you all to oppose HB 2477.