



Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

*Re: HB 2545 OPPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY
House Federal and State Affairs*

*I am writing you today to ask that you **OPPOSE HB 2545.***

My name is Amy Heggstad and I am the Founder and a Board Member for Beauties and Beasts, Inc., Wichita, Kansas.

Beauties and Beasts' purpose is to network and rescue Death Row animals at shelters in danger of euthanasia and place them in adopter or foster homes that will provide them the love and care they need to become happy, healthy animals. We do not discriminate against breed, age, medical or behavior ... we love them all the same.

I respectfully ask all of you, have you walked the halls of your local shelter? The halls that animals are kept in cells for no fault of their own? The halls that animals are waiting for a miracle to be saved from euthanasia? Well, I do. I walk those halls every week and have done so since I founded Beauties and Beasts, Inc. back in September 2014. I've been there to witness cats & kittens and dogs & puppies being pulled to the back to be euthanized. Have you? I have also been there to pull and save the lives of almost 1300 animals from our local shelter and helped network thousands to save their lives.

I do all of this while working a full-time job, recruiting volunteers who also all have full time jobs, and we constantly are always asking people in the community for donations to help save these animals. WE are tired. WE are overwhelmed. WE are your constituents.

Bringing back greyhound racing to the state of Kansas is not the answer for our budget deficit. In fact, it will create more problems for your constituents than you can imagine. Who is going to be held accountable for the influx of greyhounds ending up in our local shelters and rescues? Does Phil Ruffin have a plan for that? The inhumane mistreatment of greyhounds in the dog industry is REAL. It is not something to take lightly for a false promise of economic gains - greyhound racing is a dying industry and this has been proven over and over.

*I ask you to please **OPPOSE HB 2545.***

Sincerely,

*Amy Heggstad
Founder and Board Member, Beauties and Beasts, Inc.
Wichita, Kansas*