

February 11, 2018

RE: HB2545 OPPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY
House Federal and State Affairs

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

I am writing you today to ask that you Oppose **HB2545**, a bill that would return greyhound and horse racing back to Kansas.

My name is Shanti Leiker, I am a resident of Sedgwick County where one of the three Greyhound racing tracks is located.

This issue is important to me for two reasons. First and foremost is the condition and treatment of the animals used for racing. Horses and greyhounds both suffer life threatening injuries while forced to race. It's well documented that at Woodlands in the last six months of operations, 80 dogs were injured with primarily broken legs as well as sprains and torn muscles. Additionally, nineteen dogs were euthanized or died while racing. Horses also suffer a similar fate, fracturing legs while being forced to race, some of these injuries compounded from pre-existing injuries that were ignored. Between 2009-2011, 3,600 horses died during racing in various states. The conditions racing animals live in is also questionable and seemingly inhumane. Please don't bring this back to Kansas, currently already listed as number 35 in the 2017 Humane state rankings. The second reason I ask you to oppose this bill is the potential for economic loss. Dog racing alone has consistently resulted in losses in revenue and, even when coupled with subsidies from electronic gambling measures typically co-located, these measures have failed in numerous other states to include Iowa and Arkansas. Dog racing is on a national decline for a reason, please don't allow Kansas to be added to that losing statistic. Please say no to **HB2545**.

I ask you to oppose **HB2545**. Please do not allow greyhound or horse racing in the great State of Kansas.

Respectfully,

Shanti Leiker

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