

March 30, 2018



Kansas Horse Council
8831 Quail Lane, Suite 201
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-776-0662
director@kansashorsecouncil.com
www.kansashorsecouncil.com

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
FROM: JUSTINE STATEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, KANSAS HORSE COUNCIL
RE: Written Testimony supporting SB 427 Amending the Kansas expanded lottery act regarding racetrack gaming facilities

I represent the voice of the equine industry as the director of the Kansas Horse Council. Kansas Horse Council is a non-profit organization providing education, industry support, and public policy advocacy to our constituents. We have membership and representation in all 105 Kansas counties comprised of individuals, families, clubs and associations. We are diverse in disciplines and experiences within the horse world, but united in our goal to see our heritage – involvement in the horse industry- remain strong in this great state.

Per last survey, the Kansas horse population was approx. 107,000 head with the greatest percent directly related to the horse racing industry. Despite our thriving past, the racing industry in Kansas has suffered. Declining resources due to the significant increase in competition for recreational spending since 2007 has led breeders to move their operations out of state. Lack of funding for purses has caused individuals to take their racehorses to other states where they have a chance to make more money.

Loss of jobs, loss of money in circulation, loss of tourism opportunities all negatively impact the economy.

Your vote in favor of SB427 serves to level the tax rate creating equitable fairness and economic viability for racetrack gaming facilities, which would bring greyhound and horse racing back to Kansas.

Slot machine income generates increased purse opportunities on the track which brings in the bigger players which brings in the spectators- jobs and tourism opportunities.

From the state tax revenue perspective 22% of something can be big, but 40% of nothing is still nothing!

I hear often from animal science, agriculture, and general business majors along with veterinary science students who would appreciate more job opportunities in-state in their fields of interest. Business graduates could find administrative and management opportunities upon opening of trackside gaming facilities or in hotels that will see increased tourism opportunities through

rejuvenated racing in Kansas. The racing industry invites breeding operations back into the state which once were prevalent and thriving here but left when tracks closed.

Revival of racing creates jobs for the future graduates of agriculture, animal sciences and veterinary science who desire hands on caregiving jobs, feed production or sales jobs. These are just a few industry growth opportunities of many. It is largely a domino effect.

It seems most prudent to allow the Kansas Lottery and the Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission joint oversight with the ability to divvy up the distribution of 2,800 income generating slot machines equally among trackside facilities and the current state-owned casino facilities- (which offer other games to generate income as well).

The Kansas Horse Council supports SB427. The benefits for the Kansas economy would be remarkable. This would stimulate the horse population which has numerous secondary benefits to the grain and hay producers, farm retailers, veterinarians, marketing industry, educational opportunities and more.

A thriving racing industry could produce supportive funding for public programs such as Therapeutic Riding Centers, Equine Rescue Facilities, Tourism, Seminars, Trail Development, Enrichment and Education Scholarships, plus Research and Development.

The Kansas Horse Council supports SB427 due to the jobs growth benefits and economic impact this represents to Kansas and the equine industry. We urge your favorable consideration for an equitable tax structure to the Kansas owned private sector businesses which in turn supports our racing industry and the benefits Kansas economy as a whole!

Respectfully submitted,

Justine Staten
Executive Director, Kansas Horse Council
Office: 785-776-0662
Cell: 785-565-1976
Fax: 785-539-2928
Kansashorsecouncil.com
Kansasequinedirectory.com
Equifestofks.com
director@kansashorsecouncil.com