

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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John E. Barker
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April 3, 2018

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB427

TO: Chairman Bud Estes and Distinguished Members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee:

I am Representative John E. Barker of the 70th District, and I live in Abilene, Kansas. I come today in support of **SB427**, which would reinstate dog and horse racing in the state of Kansas.

As you may or may not know, the racing registry for greyhound dogs has been located at Abilene, Kansas, since 1948. All racing dogs are registered at the time of their birth. Greyhound racing was the first type of pari-mutuel racing created in the state of Kansas and it provided a substantial revenue to the state. I believe and have read documents that reveal that should greyhound racing be reinstated, it would create 4,500 jobs in the state and, more specifically, 400 jobs within central Kansas. I consider this economic development.

As to the allegations that the horses or dogs are abused, I can tell you that as a Judge in my county for 25 years, I have never had a case regarding abuse of a greyhound racing dog. Any animal that sells for approximately \$10,000 is well cared for.

We have had hearings on this issue this year and in past years in the House Federal and State Affairs Committee, which I presently chair. I believe it is time that we reinstate horse and dog racing with slot machines and that they should have the same percentages that are presently given to the state casinos. As I recall, **SB66** directed the casinos to provide 22% of their revenues to the state whereas race tracks were required to provide 40% of all revenue to the state. I believe you can see the inequities that were made in **SB66**.

Again, I would ask you to explore the possibilities and encourage you to pass **SB427** so that the State and the people of Kansas can benefit by reinstatement of horse and dog racing.

I stand for questions.


Representative John E. Barker, 70th District