

Senator Wilborn and Members of the Committee:

My name is Midge Grinstead, and I am the Kansas Senior State Director for The Humane Society of the United States. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2516 on behalf of our Kansas members, supporters and advocates.

The intent of **Kansas HB 2516** is to help increase public awareness and to shield Good Samaritans from liability if they act to protect or save the life of a vulnerable individual (such as a child) or a domestic animal left in a hot car.

Although the danger of hot cars has existed for as long as we have transported children and pets in vehicles, there is now more information than ever to support legislation:

- On a 78 degree day, a car's internal temperature can quickly reach 109 degrees F.
- Because 80 percent of the temperature increase inside a car happens in the first 10 minutes, it's dangerous to leave children or pets unattended in a vehicle for even a short period of time.
- Cracking a window **does not** slow down the heating process or decrease the car's maximum temperature.
- Because animals lack the ability to regulate body temperature, they can sustain brain damage or die from heatstroke in a hot car in just 15 minutes.

A number of states, such as Vermont, Massachusetts and Wisconsin, recently enacted similar legislation with bipartisan support, and several states are considering legislation this year. Eighteen in total currently have Good Samaritan laws, and even more allow first responders to rescue animals in distress.

HB 2516 includes thoughtful language that increases protection for children, at-risk persons and animals but also prevents vigilantism. Intervention is carefully defined and kept as a last resort only to be used when all options have been exhausted and the child or animal is in visible distress.

I urge committee members to support HB 2516 as an important step to avoid unnecessary animal suffering. Protecting children, at-risk persons and animals from an agonizing death is a worthy objective upon which we can all agree.

Thank you so much for allowing me to appear before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have to the best of my abilities.

Midge Grinstead

785-766-3871

mgrinstead@humanesociety.org

