

To: Chairman Sean Tarwater
Members, House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

From:

Humane Society Legislative Fund of Kansas
Humane Society Legislative Fund of the Midwest
Humane Society of the United States
Kansas Animal Control Association
Kansas City RE-GAP – Greyhound Rescue, Kansas City
Humane Society of Greater KC, Kansas City
Great Plains SPCA, Merriam
The Pet Connection Olathe
Leavenworth Co Humane Society, Leavenworth
Southeast Kansas Humane Society, Pittsburg
Allen County Animal Rescue Facility, La Harpe
Animals With Our Love, Independence
Wichita Animal Action League
Beauties and Beasts, Wichita
Second Chances, Wichita
Companion Animal Protection Society of Kansas, Wichita
K9 Karma Animal Advocates, Wichita
Mt. Hope Animal Sanctuary, Wichita
Kansas K9 ResQ, Wichita
Friends of Felines, Wichita
Heartstrings Animal Advocates, El Dorado
Helping Hands Humane Society, Topeka
Cattails, Manhattan
One Dog at a Time MHK, Manhattan
Finney County Humane Society, Garden City
We are A Grateful Sanctuary (WAGS), Winfield
Hands of Hope Rescue, Great Bend
Chasing Tails Rescue, Great Bend
SRL – All Breed Dog Rescue, Minneapolis
Rockin Paw Rescue, Emporia
Emporia Animal Shelter
Prairie Paws HS, Ottawa
Always & Furever Midwest Animal Sanctuary, Miami County
Humane Society of the High Plains, Hays
Heart of Jackson Humane Society, Holton
Brown Co Humane Society
Humane Society of Atchison

Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB 2280
Date: February 21, 2019

My name is Terry Humphrey, lobbyist for the Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society Legislative Fund of Kansas. Today, I am speaking on behalf of a coalition of animal welfare organizations in Kansas who oppose greyhound racing. Please review the above list of organizations.

Our coalition opposes HB 2280, because it allows simulcasting of live greyhound races. If this is removed, we do not have any opposition. The reason for our opposition is that greyhound racing is cruel and inhumane and should not be supported whether the racing occurs in Kansas or another state. This is a cultural value shared by Kansans who have rejected this activity as demonstrated by the fact that greyhound racetrack gaming facilities have not been operational for more than a decade. The public's opposition to greyhound racing has only gained momentum in the past decade and any step towards allowing even simulcasting of this cruel and inhumane activity is inconsistent with Kansans' values. Accordingly, simulcasting of live greyhound racing should not be permitted.

Greyhound Racing Rejected

When the last greyhound racetrack closed in 2008, racetrack gambling revenue had declined by 95 percent. Over the last ten years, the country's disdain for greyhound racing has only galvanized. This past November, Floridians overwhelmingly voted to outlaw dog racing in their state, joining residents from 40 other states who also have outlawed greyhound racing due to animal cruelty issues and declining revenue.

In 2016, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas voted to prohibit dog racing at The Woodlands. We are urging legislators to follow their lead and eliminate simulcasting of greyhound racing.

Overall, the message is clear: the American public is not interested in and will not support this outdated and cruel activity no matter how the activity is presented (live or simulcasted).

We respectfully ask you remove the simulcasting of live greyhound racing in HB 2280.

Thank you.