

HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

BILL NUMBER: HB___: Barker Sports Wagering Bill

Support _____ Oppose XXX Neutral _____

Testimony Will Be: Oral _____ Written Only XX

For Meeting on March 12, 2020

Testimony By: Shanti L. Leiker

On Behalf Of: Private citizen

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Testimony of **Shanti Leiker** to the
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Opponent for HB ___: Barker Sports Wagering Bill • March 10, 2020

Chairman Barker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply written testimony in opposition of the proposed House Bill, titled Barker Sports Wagering Bill regarding amending the Kansas Lottery Act (“KLA”) and the Kansas Expanded Lottery Act (“KELA”) which puts forth the terms by which lottery gaming facility managers (“casino managers”), racetrack gaming facility managers (“racing managers”) and the Kansas lottery may offer sports wagering. As a constituent, a member of the Sedgwick County Animal Advisory Board, an animal owner, and a resident of Sedgwick county where a defunct greyhound track is located, I’m very concerned with ensuring live greyhound races are never brought back or allowed within the State of Kansas.

This bill will benefit those that would promote Sports Wagering within the State of Kansas but does so on the literal backs and bones of live greyhound dogs. As currently written and with the proposed amendment, sports wagering is only authorized by the above laws when in a pari-mutuel licensing situation which means there must be the running of a minimum number of live greyhound races. Greyhounds who are used for racing are not treated or even considered any more than property based upon current definitions. The typical living situation of greyhounds used for racing is deplorable, inhumane and unacceptable with the absolute minimum amount of space, exercise and a sever lack of ability to live as a dog should live. They are raced unmercifully until their bodies are shattered and they are no longer able to perform at which time they are disposed of like a broken thing.

As currently written, I’m vehemently opposed to the Barker Sports Wagering Bill. While the financial benefits make this bill seem attractive, the cost to live animals is unacceptable. It essentially incentivizes the return of greyhound racing. It is for these reasons that I’m opposed to the proposed HB titled Barker Sports Wagering Bill and I ask that it is not allowed to become an actual bill

Respectfully,



Shanti Leiker

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