



**March 11, 2020**

**Committee:** House Federal and State Affairs

**Hearing:** Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 9am

**Re:** Testimony opposing HB 2671

**To:** Chairman Barker and Members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee,

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.

As you might expect, these organizations do not have a position on sports wagering legislation. However, since HB 2671 incentivizes the return of greyhound racing in two ways, we are opposed to the bill.

As written, the bill permits racetrack gaming facilities to offer sports wagering. According to KELA, the Kansas Expanded Lottery Act, in order for racetrack gaming facilities to open, they must run live greyhound races. Thus, the wording of the bill makes sports wagering at racetrack gaming facilities **dependent on live greyhound racing** and provides a financial incentive for the return of this cruel activity. For these reasons, the bill should be amended to exclude racetrack gaming facility managers from offering sports wagering.

The second issue we oppose in the bill is the definition of a “sporting event.” As written, HB 2671 only excludes sports betting on greyhound racing that occurs in Kansas and is regulated by the Kansas Parimutuel Racing Act. However, the proposed Kansas sports wagering legislation should not permit betting on greyhound races anywhere; for example, betting on races or individual dogs in Iowa or other states where tracks are still operational.

### **Greyhound Racing Rejected**

We know that the public does not support greyhound racing. 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. In November 2018, 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. This is a clear indication of public sentiment on the issue. We urge you to follow their lead.

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.

In closing, we respectfully request that you amend HB 2671 as outlined above to guarantee that sports wagering does not include greyhound racing.

Thank you.

**Sincerely,**

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 Kansas City  
Great Plains SPCA – Merriam  
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 – Wichita  
Beauties & Beasts – Wichita  
Second Chances – Wichita  
Companion Animal Protection Society of  
Kansas – Wichita  
K9 Karma Animal Advocates – Wichita

Mt. Hope Animal Sanctuary – Wichita  
Friends of Felines – Wichita  
Heartstrings Animal Advocates – El Dorado  
Helping Hands Humane Society – Topeka  
Russel T. Reitz Animal Shelter - Manhattan  
We are a Grateful Sanctuary (WAGS) –  
Winfield  
SRL – All Breed Dog Rescue – Minneapolis  
Emporia Animal Shelter - Emporia  
Humane Society of the Flint Hills – Emporia  
Prairie Paws Humane Society – Ottawa  
Always & Furever Midwest Animal Sanctuary –  
Miami County  
Heart of Jackson Humane Society – Holton  
Brown Co Humane Society – Hiawatha  
Humane Society of Atchison – Atchison  
Kansas K9 ResQ – Wichita – Quinter  
Proud Animal Lovers (PALS) – Parsons  
Caring Hands Humane Society – Newton