

March 10, 2020

Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

I am requesting my written testimony regarding House Bill 2671 be heard. Thank you for the opportunity to do this.

This is Betty Nelson, a board member and director of Heart of Jackson Humane Society located in Holton, KS. On behalf of our society, I am expressing our opposition to HB 2671.

The impact of bringing back greyhound racing will affect public and private agencies by forcing them to absorb the costs related to this horrible sport. This will include complaints of abuse, supporting costs related to injuries and illness, and disposing of dog bodies dumped when no longer viable. I have seen this first hand with an abandoned greyhound who was turned into our shelter. The dog was going blind from a detached retina caused by a collision while racing. He was in horrible physical condition suffering from Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Our society paid a large veterinary bill trying to find out what the dog's issues were. Then, after a greyhound rescue group took the dog, they paid huge veterinary costs for the dog. This absolutely should not happen, most of all to non-profits!!

It is my understanding that greyhound racing is illegal in most states. My question to this: Why would Kansas even consider reviving racing? HB 2671 would further damage our state's reputation, a reputation that is already tainted by puppy mills. It will also put the greyhound breed at risk and further burden animal welfare organizations.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB 2671. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Betty Nelson
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