

Mar. 16, 2021

To: The House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Re: Opposition to SB 84
Submitted by Dr. Linda Blythe and Dr. Morrie Craig

Dear Chairman Barker & Members of the Committee:

We are two retired professors of the Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine who have worked with the Greyhound Industry for the past 35 years. This work has been primarily in collaboration with the American Greyhound Council (AGC) and the National Greyhound Association (NGA), both headquartered in Abilene, Ks. Our, and equally, their focus has always been on the health and well-being of both the racing and retired Greyhounds. To this end, they sponsored our writing of two medical textbooks.

The first was **Care of the Racing Greyhound**, written for trainers and owners in order for them to understand the amazing athletes with whom they were working and how best to prevent injuries. Then, with the efforts of the Kansas-based NGA and AGC to find homes for retired racers, the racing industry helped establish and support literally hundreds of adoption groups, the most well-known being Greyhound Pets of America. As a result, in comparatively short time, there were thousands of Greyhounds that became beloved pets in American homes. Today, homes are found for virtually all retiring Greyhounds, largely due to their efforts. Over the years, five have found a home with us.

But, there was a need to help educate the people who adopted the Greyhounds on the care of this unique breed of dog, and the AGC asked us to write a second book, **Care of the Racing and Retired Greyhound**, which was done. We have also spoken at a number of meetings of Greyhound adopters, including the Greyhound Gathering in Abilene in 2019. We will again be speaking at that Gathering in Abilene in September.

Greyhounds have been bred for hundreds of years to be athletes because they truly love to run. Kansas has led the nation and in fact, the world, in advancing care of, not only of the racing Greyhounds, but also those who are retired.

One of us (Blythe), who is a national leader in Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, can absolutely state that Greyhound racing is the most honest sport that exists in this country. The other (Craig) has worked for many years in drug testing of athletes and can make the same statement. It was, by the way, Dr. Craig who developed the drug-testing program for the semi-annual NGA Meets in Abilene, which is still being utilized today. We have been honored for our work with Greyhounds by being inducted in the Greyhound Hall of Fame in Abilene.

We strongly support Greyhound racing, therefore stand opposed to SB 84 as it is currently written. We stand in favor of HB 2199, provided the current language referencing Greyhound racing and pari-mutuel wagering remains intact. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Linda L. Blythe, Diplomate of the American College of Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation
Dr. Morrie Craig, Professor of Toxicology