

To: The Federal and State Affairs Committee

I am writing in support of this legislation from multiple viewpoints. I am a long-time breeder, trainer, and owner of racehorses as well as a college educator that teaches in Animal and Equine Science programs.

Horse breeding and racing in Kansas means much more than the gambling dollar. This industry is agriculture, and it's what we do best in Kansas. Purses, owners awards, and breeders awards spur the growth and development of farms and equine businesses in Kansas. The economic multiplying effect of this industry is powerful. Increases in breeding and training translate into increases in on farm employment, as well as growth in all associated sectors. This includes feed sales, equipment sales, Veterinary services, trucks, trailers, and all equipment associated with this industry. Many states recognize the economic contribution that the equine industry makes to their state GDP, and their legislatures take appropriate steps to protect and promote it.

As a longtime educator in college Equine programs as well as my own personal experience as Assistant Manager at a large farm in New York, I am more aware than most of the jobs that are available in the Equine Industry. I train students that want to work in this industry, and they don't want to have to leave the state to pursue their dreams. This legislation would help keep these bright young minds in Kansas. It is also a perfect fit for the current push for more technical education, allowing students to pursue either an Associates Degree or certificate to enter the workforce without amassing large debt.

I strongly urge you to support us in this effort, the impact it could have on the state is very large. We can take this investment in Kansas's future and turn it into a much bigger return. We're agriculture, that's what we do, grow things.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Dr. William J. McGuire