



To: Chairman John Barker
Vice Chair Ron Highland
Members, House Federal & State Affairs Committee

From: Terry Garberg

Re: HB 2545: Oppose Greyhound Racing in Kansas

Date: February 13, 2018

Dear Chairman Barker and Committee Members:

My name is Terry Garberg, and I am representing KCREGAP. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

I love our state and I know you face challenges that may make bringing back greyhound racing tempting to you. But racing dogs is not the answer for us.

There are numerous substantiated reasons why most other states have gotten out of this dying business. Dog racing is unpopular with the public, as many more entertaining gambling opportunities exist today. States have also found that it's ultimately fiscally irresponsible, and it's undeniably inhumane to greyhounds. To reintroduce it now would be to set Kansas back after decades of movement away from a so-called sport that pits defenseless dogs against people looking to make a buck. It's a bet that the state of Kansas as well as the dogs, will lose.

For those of us who are fortunate enough to have greyhound dogs in our lives, we know they are intelligent and sensitive, and most remain loyal to humans in spite of the ugly lives they lived prior to rescue. Many of the lucky ones who make it into the adoption network carry physical and emotional scars that are substantial and heartbreaking. Countless others are carelessly 'destroyed' after their usefulness to the racing industry has ended.

In Kansas, breeders of racing greyhounds are not required to meet even the minimal standards of animal care assigned to other breeders - minimal feeding, watering, housing, exercise and veterinary attention. Please don't support Kansas racetracks that will ultimately drain state coffers and encourage dog abuse.

I urge you to remove greyhound racing from HB 2545. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Sincerely,

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