

February 12, 2018

Re: HB 2545 OPPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY
House Federal and State Affairs

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask that you **OPPOSE HB 2545**, a bill that would bring back greyhound racing to Kansas and to Sedgwick County, where I reside.

I do not believe greyhound racing is economically responsible. It will NOT improve the Kansas economy, will NOT promote tourism and will NOT protect the state's reputation in the greyhound and horse industry as stated in HB 2545. Greyhound racing was not profitable in 2007 which led to closing of the track in Sedgwick County. Under no circumstances do I believe it will be profitable in 2018 or anytime in the future.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry overall with only approximately 18 tracks operating in the United States, and over half of those in Florida. According to reports, gambling at Florida's greyhound tracks declined 56% between 2006 and 2016 and the state's tax revenue from the gambling declined 81% during the same time period.

Greyhound racing also leads to many injuries, suffering and death of the dogs who participate in races. While the welfare of the greyhound dogs may have been on the minds of many when the tracks were operational, I don't remember any media coverage during that time. In today's society, animal welfare and rights are an important topic in many forms. Social media, which was not a major factor back then, has the ability to bring to light many of the atrocities associated with greyhound racing and very well could affect participation by the public.

Again, I urge you to OPPOSE HB 2545. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

/s/ Kelly James

Wichita, Kansas
Kellycoltonjames@gmail.com