HB 2671 Constituent Testimony - Opposition

My name is Terry Garberg and I live in Mission Hills, KS. I am a member of Kansas City Regap, an allvolunteer organization that has been rescuing greyhounds since 1992. We have placed over 5,500 dogs in homes, and spent over a million dollars, but rescue groups cannot meet the need for homes for dogs discarded by the racing industry.

I am here to request a couple of changes to HB 2671. First, the definitions of "sporting event" and "sports wagering" should be amended to exclude all greyhound racing. We also request an amendment to remove any live greyhound racing requirements and prohibit greyhound racing simulcasts.

Greyhound racing is a dying industry, now illegal in 41 states. Dog racing was bad for Kansas, and a 95% decline in gambling forced all three facilities to close by 2008. It makes little sense to bring such an unpopular activity back to the state. It is obvious that most people do not attend or support this cruel so called 'sport', and it will be a shameful embarrassment for Kansas to start opening tracks now.



legs, broken backs and other injuries.

The pro-racing myth is that the industry cares for the dogs and places all the racers after their racing career ends. The truth is the dogs are over-bred (thousands each year don't even make it to a track), fed putrid meat (4D- Downed, Diseased, Dying, or Dead animals), and are confined

in crates for 20+ hours a day. They are often riddled with parasites, and injected with illegal drugs such as cocaine and other stimulants to make them faster. Dog racing is a secretive and "self-regulated" industry. Kansas animal abuse laws are not even coming close to protecting these dogs. As the experiences in other states which have banned it attest, racing Greyhound protection is an impossible task.

The dogs that don't get destroyed by the racing industry sometimes make it into rescue groups around the country, which are left to bear the financial burden of their atrocious treatment. KC Regap receives no support from the racing industry and is currently "black balled" from receiving dogs from Kansas breeders because we tell the truth about the racing industry. We continue to get Greyhounds from other sources around the country although they were often BRED in KS. Many dogs come to us injured and in deplorable condition. The emotional and monetary costs to rehabilitate these poor dogs are substantial. By the end of 2019, just for veterinarian and kenneling, Regap's expenses were over a million dollars.

I am not against gaming, but ask that you consider the lives of these gentle dogs. **Please** ensure that greyhound racing stays out of Kansas.

Thank you.