



TO: House Agriculture Committee  
DATE: March 15, 2017  
RE: SB 47 as amended by the Senate

Chair Hoffman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you regarding Senate Bill 47 as amended by the Senate. I am the senior state director for the Humane Society of the United States and a past licensee and a past member of the Governor's Pet Animal Advisory Board. I am here today to support the amendments to Senate Bill 47.

In January when I testified before this committee on HB 2097, the companion bill to SB 47, there were several issues that were brought to your attention regarding inefficiencies in the AFIP, including the amount of money expended for no-contact inspections and for re-inspections. I am pleased to report that SB 47 as amended by the Senate—and passed by a wide margin of 34-5—corrects these problems.

SB 47 now includes fees for “no-contact inspections.” As you recall, a no-contact inspection occurs when the licensee or their designate fails to show up for the inspection. All licensees are required to have a two-hour window several days per week so an inspector can visit their facility, and they are required to have a designate for emergency purposes. In a 2016 report, the KDA reported 211 “no-contact” inspections for which the AFI program spent more than \$30,000. The fees established by SB 47 helps the department recoup some of those costs.

Additionally, the AFI program spent \$10,244 on re-inspections, which occur after a licensee fails an inspection. SB 47 as amended includes fees for failed inspections that will partially make up for the two visits the inspectors make to a facility that has failed an inspection, although they will not cover the entire cost. Please note that several state programs around the nation charge a full inspection fee and some even charge additional mileage fees. That said, if there are no fees, then there is no incentive to be in compliance. By including fees, SB 47 helps defray re-inspection expenses and also encourages compliance.

During previous testimony, this committee was told by the Dept of Ag that the AFIP follows the frequency of inspection schedule in rules and regulations. Unfortunately, this has lead to irregular inspection patterns. For example, several licensed shelters that have not failed inspections are inspected yearly, while other licensees are not regularly inspected. We also discussed the importance of maintaining the integrity of the program by having unannounced inspections. This is not a new concept: Kansas child care services, hospitals and the restaurants are all inspected without prior notification. SB 47 now makes all inspections unannounced to help ensure licensees stay in compliance.

Finally, after operating a large Kansas shelter for more than 14 years and taking in animals from puppy mills and substandard facilities, I can tell you that the inspectors need to view the animal health records of USDA licensed facilities. Again, it speaks to the integrity of the program and assures the health, safety

and welfare of the animals in those facilities. SB 47 now allows inspectors to view those USDA facility records.

Thank you for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have to the best of my abilities.

Sincerely,  
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