



*February 3, 2017*

**Dear Committee on Federal and State Affairs:**

Great progress has been made in Kansas to improve animal welfare. Allowing greyhound racing to return would be a huge step in the wrong direction. Greyhound racing is a dying industry that would not be lucrative for the state or anyone seeking to build a gaming enterprise. I am asking that you remove greyhounds from HB 2173 or simply vote no on this bill.

The horrific abuse and neglect that occurs at racetracks should not be welcome back into our state. All three greyhound racing operations that once existed in Kansas suffered massive losses and closed. In 2008, there were 80 reported cases of injuries that greyhounds suffered at Kansas tracks. Many of them died.

From 2001 to 2014 state dog race revenue dropped by more than 82% across the nation. Since 2001, thirty dog tracks have closed or dropped live racing. There are currently only six states where dog tracks remain. The biggest reason for the sharp decline in this business is because of the public being made aware of the plight of racing greyhounds.

Allowing greyhound racing would not be welcomed by most Kansans. As we see advances being made in animal welfare, I know that the good people of our state would not support an industry that is so cruel and inhumane.

**Sincerely,**

**Justin L. Brokar**  
***Director of Community Engagement & Development***  
**Helping Hands Humane Society, Inc.**