

HB 2545 OPPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Vote 'NO' on HB 2545. I oppose this bill.

Greyhound racing is cruel and inhumane, and there is no place for it in the state of Kansas.

HB 2545 will increase greyhound breeding and racing, and in turn increase suffering for dogs. These animal welfare concerns not only impact greyhounds, but the state as well. Public and private agencies will be forced to absorb the costs of investigating related cruelty complaints, taking in dogs with injuries and illness for treatment, rescue and adoption, and picking up dead discarded bodies of dogs dumped when the racing industry is done with them.

Racing events lead to an unacceptable level of animal exploitation and suffering solely for profit. In the last six-month season of racing in Kansas, eighty dogs suffered broken legs and backs and other injuries. Dog racing results in orthopedic fractures, painful muscular tears, fatal kidney damage and other musculoskeletal and internal organ failures. Thousands of animals are damaged and die or are killed in the training process, and many others suffer crippling and debilitating chronic systemic conditions after racing.

The racing industry promotes and tolerates an overproduction of dogs, resulting in an annual surplus numbering in the thousands, many of whom will end up being destroyed despite the best efforts of shelters and rescue groups. The state of Kansas should not become a willing participant in this cycle of death yet again.

Racing proved to be a bad experiment for Kansas in 2008, with a 95% decline in gambling forcing the facilities to close. It makes little sense to bring this industry back. HB 2545 will not revive rural Kansas, but it will put the state economy and thousands of greyhounds at risk.

I urge you to oppose this harmful bill.

Sincerely,

Debbie Blochlinger

SRL Inc