

Chairman Hoffman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kate Fields, President and CEO of The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City. Our mission is to save and improve the lives of dogs and cats throughout the Greater Kansas City community by providing education, adoptions, preventive veterinary care and spay/neuter services. We are located in Kansas City, KS. We are the veterinarian of license for Kansas City, KS Animal Services, and are primarily responsible for lowering their euthanasia rate from 80% in 2008 to 4.6% in 2016. Our clinic staffs 6 veterinarians who provide quality healthcare at a low/affordable cost. We see over 22,000 pet visits annually. Our shelter adoptions have increased 55% over the past 2 years, and coupled with our Ray of Hope program (KCK Animal Services adoptions that we run), we're finding forever homes for over 1,000 animals – being a small shelter, I'm very very proud of what we're accomplishing on a relatively small budget.

I respectfully ask you to move HB 2097 / SB 47 forward to the full house with amendments that would address the following:

- Make licensees accountable and charge a fee for re-inspections, no contacts or refusal visits and failing and inspection.
- Amend the \$30 fee for fosters to \$15. These are citizens who are helping our shelter impact the lives of dogs and cats, and whom we cannot function without. Because they are fostering 24/7, sometimes for months at a time, we pay their fee. This will increase our costs threefold, at a time when raising dollars for a non-profit is extremely difficult.
- Offsite adoption sites are critical for shelters and rescues. We rely on third party events to be able to bring our pets to the public for greater exposure in hopes of finding their forever home. Events held at locations such as PetSmart, other retail locations make it that much easier for us to do our jobs. We'll average 25 3rd party events a year where we take animals to show – having to register each one with the State for a 3 hour event will cause more workload for the Dept. of Ag.

Please move this bill forward with amendments to help the Dept. of Ag to protect the health, safety, and welfare of companion animals in Kansas.

Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Kate Fields