



TO: House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
Representative Tarwater, Chair

FROM: Megan Kilgore, Kansas Veterinary Medical Association

RE: Testimony on HB 2280 relating to Gaming

DATE: February 21, 2019

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Chairman Tarwater and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit written testimony before this committee in support of HB 2280 relating to racetrack gaming. My name is Megan Kilgore. I am providing this testimony in my role as Executive Director of the Kansas Veterinary Medical Association. The KVMA is the only statewide professional membership organization dedicated exclusively to veterinary medicine and the interests of the veterinary team.

For years, pari-mutuel gaming provided career opportunities for veterinarians in the state of Kansas. Veterinary care for equine and greyhound athletes expanded beyond routine care creating a sound environment in Kansas for equine veterinarians and orthopedic specialists. Racing provided an outlet for Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine graduates, with a passion for equine medicine, to stay and practice medicine in our state.

As state funding for higher education continues to dwindle, it's also important to discuss the economic impact pari-mutuel racing provides for the state of Kansas. When racing was strong in Kansas, Kansas State University benefited. The College of Veterinary Medicine reports they received more than \$3.2 million dollars in support for research activities related to the racing industry. Other colleges on campus have received research dollars as well. The College of Veterinary Medicine recently added a privately-supported Equine Performance Testing Center that will provide a tremendous advantage to diagnosing equine lameness.

I urge the committee to support HB 2280. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today.