



March 8, 2018

Senate Agriculture Committee – HB 2477

Senator Kerschen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 2477. I am the senior state director for the Humane Society of the United States, a past licensee and a past member of the Governor's Pet Animal Advisory Board. I am here today to support HB 2477 as amended by the full House.

Last year, testimonies before this committee pointed out several issues regarding inefficiencies in the Animal Facility Inspection Program including the amount of money expended for no-contact inspections, failed inspections and for re-inspections. Debate within this committee and the full senate, overwhelmingly supported fees for those inspections instead of raising fees on shelters and rescues. This bill takes a step in the right direction by charging fees to those licensees that continue to fail and use AFI program resources.

The Kansas Pet Animal Act was created to govern the health, safety, and welfare of Kansas companion animals. I couldn't find any other states that give prior notice of inspection to their licensees. Our own state has no-prior notice of inspection for our state hospitals, nursing care facilities, child care facilities, restaurants, and even liquor stores. The integrity of this program rests on the ability of the inspectors to really see what is going on in the facilities that are licensed and you can't do that by notifying them ahead of time. Remember, they are only seeing facilities once every 12-18 months. The amendment to HB 2477 protects the integrity of this program by not allowing prior notice of inspections.

On behalf of our members, supporters and advocates, I ask that you move HB 2477 as amended by the House out of committee.

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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