



March 8, 2018

Chairman Kerschen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kelly Kultala, and I am here on behalf of the Humane Society Legislative Fund of Kansas to testify in support of HB 2477 as amended by the full House.

HB 2477 contains provisions that are familiar to the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. In the 2017 legislative session, this committee passed SB 47, which made several important updates to the Kansas Pet Animal Act, including:

1. The requirement of unannounced inspections
2. Reinspection fees levied on licensees for failing to make themselves available for inspection (known as “no-contacts”) or for failed inspections, and
3. Fee increases on licensees

These provisions not only passed in this committee, but were strongly supported by the full Senate last year with a vote of 34-5. **This year, HB 2477, amended on the House floor to include these same provisions, passed with a vote of 103-14.**

The only provision in HB 2477 that was not included in SB 47 is a favorable provision removing the licensing requirement for foster homes, as they fall under the jurisdiction of local licensed animal shelters. As you know, foster families provide temporary care for animals owned by shelters, and they have never been inspected by the Animal Facility Inspection program. Shelters are required by regulation to inspect the foster homes. Since foster homes are not inspected by the state, there is no need for the state to license these volunteers.

HB 2477 is an important step toward stopping the proliferation of puppy mills in Kansas. The requirement for unannounced inspections is particularly important - no other state allows prior notification of inspections for breeders, pet shops, and other companion animal organizations. And within Kansas, our state hospitals, nursing care facilities, child care facilities, restaurants, and even liquor stores are all inspected without prior notification.

These improvements to the KPAA will help protect animals from abuse, prevent the spread of disease, provide consumer protection for those purchasing dogs in Kansas, and help our state improve an image tainted by being ranked as the second worst puppy mill state in the country tied with Pennsylvania and Ohio.

**For these reasons, we ask you to support HB 2477 without further amendments.**

Sincerely,

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