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Chairman Kerschen and Senators:

We are in support of a bill that raises the fees. It has been well over a decade since the fees have been raised. This is an important Kansas program for the health of pet animals in shelters, rescues, boarding, training, pet stores, and breeding facilities.

Of course, we'd prefer that any policy issues were postponed until the legislative audit of the program was completed. We don't want the cart to come before the horse. The program works as it is, we just need the additional funding to keep up with the times.

The Advisory Board spent countless hours since 2012 in fine tuning the language used in the Pet Animal Act. It is a shame that the expert knowledge of all on that board was disregarded for the whims of the Humane Society of the United States to wave their wand and request amendments that lowers the suggested reasonable fair fees for the shelters and completely deletes the fosters from agency oversight.

Fosters were not in the original 1991 bill, but when the former director saw a need for them, it was added. Now HB 2477 is proposing to drop them, before the audit is complete. I believe this is a mistake. I suggest the fees be raised by a percentage across the board as the need is there, and we don't change any policy issues until the audit is complete.

Sincerely,

The Munks and Meyers from Menlo