

March 8th 2018

Chairman Kerschen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 2477. My name is Heather Schwartz I am the Humane Society county leader for Montgomery county and a past animal shelter volunteer. I am here to support HB 2477 as amended by the full house.

Last year, testimonies before this very Committee highlighted issues regarding several inefficiencies in the Animal Facility Inspection Program. From the amount of money expended for no-contact inspections, failed inspections, focused inspections and re-inspections. Subsequent debate within the legislature overwhelmingly supported inspections and re-inspections without raising fees on shelters and rescues.

The Kansas Pet Animal Act was created to govern the health, safety, and welfare of Kansas companion animals. However currently this Act is not being enforced effectively, primarily due to the prior notification breeders receive of any upcoming inspection. When it comes to our health industry, restaurants, and daycare facilities, and nursing facilities in the state of Kansas they have inspections without notice. Animal facilities including breeders should as well have inspections without prior notice. As a prior volunteer at different animal shelters in Kansas I have seen ones that are truly ran by individuals that come for the animals and animal shelters that do the bare minimal and seem to not be there for the right reason. By having inspections without prior notices, we can make sure the animals are getting the treatment they need for their safety and health. I ask the committee to support HB 2477 as amended by the house.

Thank you I would be happy to answer any questions you might have to the best of my abilities.

Sincerely,

Heather Schwartz 620-779-1165

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