

March 13, 2017

Chair Hoffman and members of the Committee:

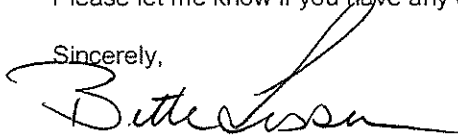
My name is Bette Lessen and I am a resident of the City of Arma which is located in the southeast corner of Kansas. I am unable to attend the hearing on Wednesday, and to let you know that I support SB 47 with amendments added by the Senate Ag Committee. This bill passed out of the Senate 34-5 and has the support of the Dept of Agriculture. These amendments close inspection loopholes by establishing a uniform process of inspecting the premises of breeders and other licensees. Amendments include:

- Shelter inspections are unannounced and breeder inspections are frequently scheduled by appointment. This practice is unacceptable and best practice would dictate that all inspections be unannounced.
- No-Contact Inspections cost the department more than \$30,000 in 2016. Each licensee has a specified two hour period a few days per week that they are available. They are also required to have a designate in case they cannot be available during the time reported.
- Fees established for failed inspections and re-inspections incentives compliance and defray costs of inspections.
- Licensees that continue to fail should have their licenses revoked after the third fail within 24 months, protecting other licensees and their reputations.
- Reduce charges for foster homes from \$30 to \$20 dollars.
- Allow Kansas inspectors to view animal health records of USDA licensed facilities.

The Senate amendments are badly needed. The financial drain from "no-contact" inspections and re-inspections makes fees charged for substandard performance necessary. We must address funding issues without over-burdening those licensees that are doing a good job.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I appreciate the opportunity to send in written testimony.

Sincerely,



Bette Lessen

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Kansas Republican