

March 6, 2018

The Honorable Dan Kerschen, et al.  
Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee  
Kansas State Senate  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: HB 2477 PROPONENT WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I would like to request your staunch **SUPPORT OF HB 2477**, as amended by the house committee, with your **VOTE of YES**. It is in the interest of the State of Kansas to promote the health and well-being of ALL its residents, *especially* those without a voice – our companion animals.

Working in law enforcement for over 14 years, I have seen enough scenes of animal abuse, neglect, and mistreatment, from minor to severe, for one lifetime. They can occur in every kind of neighborhood, within vastly dissimilar communities. There is not one “type” of person that commits this crime and it can even be someone you would never suspect. However, ask anyone in law enforcement and you will hear there *is one* “type” that concerns us the most: suspects who intentionally inflict injury to maim, torture, deform, and/or kill an animal. FBI statistics show this “type” is considered a variable in predicting future violent behavior, particularly murder, even if it begins at an early age.

Most will agree it’s necessary for criminals to be held accountable of their actions to protect current victims and prevent future ones. The same rings true for those guilty of inspection violations which negatively affect the health, welfare, and/or safety of animals. And it’s more sensible for violators to pay fines/penalties, rather than force them onto non-profits. When I ticket a driver for a moving violation, it wouldn’t make sense to notate the passenger as liable for the fine. How would the driver learn to alter his behavior if punishment were transferred to his passenger? And the passenger would learn to no longer ride with the driver and would quickly get out of the car. Forcing non-profit rescues to pay for costs created by for-profit violators would be damaging to Kansas, as the number of animals saved by rescues decreases, and as non-profits struggle with fees until they too decide it’s better for them to just “get out of the car.”

Non-enforcement makes laws we create, and the people who try to enforce them, weaker. AFI Inspectors should only have the power we legislate, with the extent of power equally as important as its limitations to help prevent corruption and retain impartiality. Disallowing notice given helps prevent favoritism, bias, and bribes. It also provides a realistic environment for inspections, without the risk of a licensee relocating animals and/or evidence of any mistreatment and/or abuse.

Please, **VOTE YES on HB 2477**, as amended by the House, and help make the lives of *both* Kansans and companion animals better in the process.

Respectfully,

/s/ Michael D. Chavez, Jr.  
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