

Submitter: Javier Mendez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Commerce and Consumer Protection
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3020

As I originally planned to write testimony in opposition of HB3020, I felt it necessary to read some of the others who have kindly given up their time to submit arguments both in support and opposition of HB3020. Since doing so, I am troubled that many seem to have lost sight of HB3020s intentions.

On one hand, supporters are quick to point to extreme examples of animal cruelty, inhumane practices and general poor welfare for these animals. Unfortunately, there have been instances of all of these things. Bad kennel owners, aggressive track handlers, and even outdated practices of using "live" lures. We've seen this in other sports as well, drug use by athletes in baseball, the medically proven damage boxers experience, or even the whipping of racing horses.

I do ask everyone reading and considering HB3020 to understand that we are no longer living in the years of past. Just as America must live with the shame of slavery, greyhound racing enthusiasts acknowledge and understand the cruel PAST of the sport.

This is no longer.

Greyhound racing is now under strict guidelines of state racing commissions. There are very specific rules and regulations to ensure the safety of these animals. I would like to express a large importance that these beautiful animals are RUNNING 550 yards...that's it. Furthermore, each kennel is inspected regularly and kennels risk losing their racing licenses if they are found in violation. Opposing testimonies are latching onto the few bad examples of this historic sport. I ask kindly, that we do not brandish the entire sport based on the shameful actions of the very few. Every industry has a few bad apples, let us not spoil the entire bunch.

In summation, greyhound racing boasts a 99% adoption rate for retired racers. The largest problem most families face is their dogs get too excited to run, but that is to be expected when you're talking about the fastest dog in the world!