



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 2593		DATE: 2/28/2024
COMMITTEE: Emerging Issues		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF-STATE PUBLIC ADVOCAT		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: arniedienoff@yahoo.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 11:59 PM
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.		



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: BOB BAKER		PHONE NUMBER: 314-361-3944	
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 4509			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63123
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: CODY ALAN ATKINSON		PHONE NUMBER: 573-590-0026	
REPRESENTING: HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES		TITLE: STATE DIRECTOR	
ADDRESS: 735 N OSAGE ST			
CITY: INDEPENDENCE		STATE: MO	ZIP: 64050
EMAIL: catkinson@umass.edu	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 9:25 AM	

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Missouri is one of only 2 states which still uses gas chambers to induce the death of dogs and cats (WY is the other), meaning 48 other states recognize that this process is a cruel way to end a dog or cat's life (OH and UT passed bans within past 2 years). There is currently 1 gas chamber we are aware of still operating in MO (Poplar Bluff). However, with over 100 shelters/rescues in the state, we are unsure if other shelters may still have gas chambers installed but not currently in use. The process for inducing the death of a dog via gas chamber has been recorded to take over 30 minutes at times and has even been unsuccessful after multiple attempts. (see links below). It is a process of suffocation in which animals are oftentimes in significant distress barking, howling, convulsing, gasping for air, etc. The mental toll on those who must induce death this way cannot be understated. While it is always a difficult process to euthanize an animal, doing so in this way is especially tough as the animals die more slowly and possibly experience the symptoms listed above. Here is a quote from a Moberly shelter worker who had to use their now uninstalled chamber, " She said it was an unpleasantly memorable experience. (The dog) was just scrambling in there and gasping for air. Then it finally collapsed and was knocked unconscious, but it didn't die for about 10 minutes," she said. Animals have been pronounced dead and even thrown in freezers after being put through a gas chamber, only to be discovered alive later. Gas chambers can pose threats to people as well. The suffocating gas can leak, causing long-term damage to those who inhale excess amounts of carbon monoxide. Additionally, there has been an explosion due to a poorly maintained chamber in North Carolina. Over 3,000 shelters across the country complete the euthanasia process without usage of gas chambers, there is no reason our state should continue to allow usage when almost every other shelter in the country has figured out how to humanely euthanize animals. The AVMA standards released in 2020 state, "Consequently, CO (and CO2) is acceptable with conditions for use in institutional situations where appropriately designed and maintained equipment and trained and monitored personnel are available to administer it, but it is not recommended for routine euthanasia of cats and dogs. It may be considered in unusual or rare circumstances, such as natural disasters and large-scale disease outbreaks. Alternate methods with fewer conditions and disadvantages are recommended for companion animals where feasible."



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: JEFFREY ALTMAN		PHONE NUMBER: 314-799-7008	
REPRESENTING: HSUS		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 9209 NILES			
CITY: ST. LOUIS		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63123
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 12:00 AM	
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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: MICHAEL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL: MichaelWesten.3up@protonmail.com	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 2/26/2024 9:44 PM
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I strongly SUPPORT HB 2593 as originally drafted.



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WITNESS NAME			
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:			
WITNESS NAME: RICHARD MCINTOSH		PHONE NUMBER: 573-257-0078	
REPRESENTING: ANIMAL LEGAL DEFENSE LEGISLATIVE FUND		TITLE:	
ADDRESS: 612 EAST CAPITOL AVE			
CITY: JEFFERSON CITY		STATE: MO	ZIP: 65101
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE:	SUBMIT DATE: 2/28/2024 12:00 AM	
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