

Dear House Finance Committee Members,

In the 2000's, together many dog lovers, of which I was one, worked hard to ban live Greyhound racing in RI. We met with the Governor, we testified at hearings, we wrote letters and articles, and educated the public about the dirty secrets of Greyhound racing. We were threatened with lawsuits but we did not give up. With broad support of Rhode Islanders, we succeeded in getting our message across and this cruel "activity" (I will not call it a sport, as sports are not cruel) finally went away. Except there was a loophole and people took advantage of that with simulcasting.

I am writing to ask you to support bill [H 8217](#), introduced by Representatives Serpa, Fellela, Potter, and O'Brien, to close that loophole that allows simulcast wagering on dog racing in Rhode Island. RI must **stop** helping to prop up a cruel industry in West Virginia and in foreign countries where humane protections are non-existent. Greyhound racing is an inherently cruel and inhumane activity due to systemic issues involving injury, neglect, and overbreeding. The industry frequently puts profit over the welfare of the dogs, resulting in thousands of injuries and deaths annually, as well as poor living conditions for the animals involved. Greyhounds spend the majority of their racing life, day after day, stuck in a small cage. Would you treat your own dog like this?

More than a decade ago, the RI legislature took a stand and voted to protect dogs. This timely legislation finally makes this a reality. **Please Vote Yes on H. 8217.**

Thank you,

Judy Salvatore

North Kingstown, RI