

Albert J. Myers
384 Eastmoor Blvd
Columbus, OH 43209

April 8, 2018

Re: Labrador Retriever, House Bill 539

Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes and Members of the House State and Local Government Committee, my name is Albert J Myers and I am here in support of House Bill 539 calling for the naming the Labrador Retriever as the State Dog of Ohio.

The Labrador Retriever (Lab) is probably the most recognizable dog in Ohio. The animal is not only a companion, it has a natural instinct to protect the young and vulnerable.

A little story. While serving in the Army in the early 1970's, my duty was training a Labrador Retriever for military duty. Other breeds were also being trained, but the most trainable dog we worked with was the Lab.

When off duty, we were permitted to take our dogs with us. I was a young married man and the father of a year old toddler. While on a picnic at a lake on the military base, the toddler headed for the lake. Though having no training in protecting the toddler, the Lab shepherded our daughter away from the lake in a series of gentle, protective movements.

We have experienced the inherent instincts of numerous Labs in our family in the past forty years. The Labs would watch over our children, sleeping outside their bedrooms and alerting us when they cried or woke up. Now our Labs sleep outside the bedrooms of our sleeping grandchildren. They protect them in our yard while at play, keeping them away from the street.

I believe the inherent attachment and protective instinct to human beings well qualifies the Labrador Retriever as the State Dog of Ohio.

Thank you.