

April 9, 2018

Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes and Members of the House State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Brynne Hartley and I am here to support House Bill 539 to name the labrador retriever the state dog of Ohio. I am a fourth grader in Mrs. Ryan's class at Woodlands Intermediate School in Huron, Ohio. My social studies teacher, Ms. Ramey, is teaching us about how laws are made. We read House Mouse, Senate Mouse by Peter W. Barnes, Cheryl Shaw Barnes, a book teaching us about how laws are made through a story about mice children who write a letter to Congress about having a state cheese.

So that got me thinking: does Ohio have a state dog? My parents looked it up and learned that we do not have a state dog. I thought that Ohio could use a state dog, after all, dogs are loyal companions. Dogs are very loving to families and children really love them. Dogs have many important jobs like helping the blind, protecting people and houses, rescuing people, helping police by sniffing out drugs and chasing criminals. They are also good hunting companions, therapy animals and hard workers on farms where they can help herd livestock.

Dogs brighten up the lives of Ohioans, young and old. Virtually every Ohioan has been touched by a dog, unless of course they are allergic to dogs.

I wanted to share my idea, like we learned in class, so I wrote to my representative and senator and asked them to consider the labrador retriever as the official Dog of the State of Ohio.

Here's why I think the lab should be Ohio's dog:

- The labrador retriever is the most popular dog in Ohio.
- They are one of the best with children and families, great for family-friendly Ohio.
- They are excellent hunting dogs, good for Ohio's field and water game hunting.
- They are excellent swimmers, good for getting their owners involved in the outdoors like Ohio's Great Lake as well as its rivers, streams and ponds. And for backyard pools, too.
- Labs enjoy exercising like long walks, runs and fetching. They help their owners be more active which is healthier for people.
- They have thick coats that let them weather Ohio's cold winters with no problem.
- They are one of the smartest breeds and Ohio is a state full of smart people. After all, Ohio is known as the Birthplace of Presidents.
- We would be the first state to claim the labrador retriever as its state dog.

Please let labrador retrievers become the state dog of Ohio. Thank you for your consideration.

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