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Ohio General Assembly
House of Representatives

House Bill 539 Sponsor Testimony
House State and Local Government Committee
Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Chair Anielski, Vice-Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes, and members of the House State and Local Government committee; thank you for allowing me to testify today on House Bill 539, which would designate the Labrador Retriever as the official dog of the state of Ohio.

The Labrador retriever exemplifies Ohio's values well as they are a sporting and working dog. They are known for being energetic, loyal, friendly, and often serve Ohio citizens as police and service animals, or simply as phenomenal family pets. The American Kennel Club describes Labrador retrievers as "devoted, intelligent, and enthusiastic companions who need to be included in family activities"ⁱ

According to TIME Magazine, the Labrador retriever was the most popular breed in the State of Ohio in 2016ⁱⁱ. If passed, House Bill 539 would make Ohio the 13th state in the nation to designate a state dog. Pets are vitally important to Ohio's families and many of us know the invaluable joy that dogs can bring to us. I think it is only fitting to choose the canine that has consistently been a favorite for Ohioans and make the Labrador retriever the official state dog.

Thank you Chair Anielski and members of the committee, I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

ⁱ <http://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/labrador-retriever/>

ⁱⁱ <http://time.com/4713935/dog-breeds-popular-state/>

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