

Mary C. Myers
384 Eastmoor Blvd
Columbus, OH 43209

April 7, 2018

Re: House Bill 539

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

My name is Mary Myers and I am here in support of House Bill 539 to name the Labrador Retriever as the official dog of the State of Ohio. The Labrador Retriever is the most commonly owned dog in Ohio as well as in the United States. Labrador Retrievers are reliable pets, guide dogs for the blind and hearing impaired, used as search dogs in times of catastrophe, used by the military in combat and in search and rescue, used as comfort dogs for private owner as well as for patients in medical centers.

In these circumstances and in others not here mentioned, the Labrador Retriever has proven itself as not only a wonderful pet, but as a very useful dog in making lives better.

I just retired from Nationwide Children's Hospital where Labrador Retrievers brought smiles to the faces and comfort to the spirits of many, many children going through painful, scary procedures and experiencing life threatening illnesses.

To honor the Labrador Retriever in naming it the state dog of Ohio, you are properly bringing attention to a very versatile animal who has been a hero and faithful companion to Ohioans for many years.

Thank you.