



December 15, 2020

RE: OHIO HB 473

To Whom It May Concern:

The National Association of Christian Lawmakers (NACL) writes in support of OHIO HB 473 sponsored by Rep. T. Smith which allows the Ohio official state motto "With God All Things Are Possible" to be displayed alongside any official Ohio state seal. We applaud Rep. Smith for sponsoring this piece of legislation and encourage Ohio legislators to vote for the bill.

In 2019 The Supreme Court of the United States upheld the constitutionality of the Bladensburg Peace Cross in the case of *The American Legion v. American Humanist Association* but also went on to declare,

***"Where monuments, symbols, and practices with a longstanding history follow in the tradition of the First Congress...and recognizing the important role religion plays in the lives of many Americans, they are likewise constitutional."***

Following that decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit upheld the constitutionality of the county seal of Lehigh, Pennsylvania, which includes religious symbolism. Prior to the Court's decision in *American Legion*, every federal appeals court to ever consider a case on our National Motto, "In God We Trust" upheld the constitutionality of the national motto. Therefore, we believe in the spirit and message of Ohio's official state motto and encourage passage of HB 473 and urge the legislation be signed into law.

In God We Trust,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Rapert".

Sen. Jason Rapert (AR)  
Founder & President