

House Bill 379- Weirido Cat Lovers of Cleveland License Plate  
Written Testimony of Mandalyn Stevens

Chair Baldrige, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill (HB) 379, legislation to create the Weirido Cat Lovers of Cleveland license plate. I am a proud sponsor of this bill as the Sales and Marketing Director of Weirido Cat Lovers of Cleveland.

The Weirido Cat Lovers of Cleveland started as a group on Facebook, a place where cat lovers could share pictures, ideas, and find comfort. Eventually, things grew into over 20,000 members and we started helping members through crowdfunding. We continued to support each other on the Facebook page and soon it became apparent it was time to register as a 501(C)(3) and really get the opportunity to help. We have grown into the Akron/Canton areas and helped members all over the state of Ohio. Our group page is open to anyone that has a cat, but right now, we can only afford to help members that live in Ohio.

We are a small non profit and we have always ended the year under \$50,000 in assets and donations. The opportunity to reach more of our community with the license plate will help us immensely with funding our emergency outreach. We help members of our Facebook page with up to \$1200 dollars for each emergency. We also run a TNR division and we have a clause that helps with euthanasia of owned pets, when the time has come for them to cross the rainbow bridge.

This bill states contributions must be paid to the Weirido Cat Lovers of Cleveland, which must use the funds to further the organization's mission of assisting pet parents with emergency veterinary bills for their feline companions, providing food and litter to those in economic need, and controlling feral cat populations through the process of trap-neuter-return to the community. As a group, we are proud of our work and the contribution to our members, the community, rescues, and the many veterinary offices that we work with. These funds will allow us to continue this work and help even more families.

This license plate would be available to all persons with an eligible vehicle registered in Ohio. In addition to normal required Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) fees, those applying for this plate would pay an additional \$10 administrative fee to cover the BMV's extra production costs and a \$15 contribution to The Weirido Cats Lovers of Cleveland. If the minimum 150 person registration requirement is met for the BMV to produce the plate then The Weirido Cat Lovers of Cleveland will receive at least \$2250 in contributions.

This bill will create new support for our projects so we can continue the work in the cat community in Cleveland, OH. Thank you all for your time and consideration. Please vote yes on HB379. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.