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**Committees:**  
Primary & Secondary  
Education, Ranking  
  
Finance  
Finance Subcommittee on  
Primary & Secondary Education  
  
Financial Institutions  
  
Higher Education

**Phillip M. Robinson Jr.**  
**State Representative**  
**Ohio House District 19**

**House Bill 586 Sponsor Testimony**  
**House Homeland Security Committee**  
**November 20, 2024**

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Chairman Ghanbari, Vice-Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the Ohio House Homeland Security Committee, thank you for the opportunity for my joint sponsor Rep. Grim and I to testify in support of House Bill (HB) 586, to create the Weirdo Cat Lovers of Cleveland license plate.

Don't let the group's quirky name distract you from the good work they do in our state. The Weirdo Cat Lovers of Cleveland is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2019 with over 18,600 members based in Northeast Ohio, serving the Greater Cleveland area including and beyond Cuyahoga County. Their main goals are to help cat owners with emergency veterinary bills for their feline companions; facilitate shots and other medical care; provide food and litter to those families who have fallen on hard times; and control feral cat populations through trap-neuter-return (TNR) via community initiatives.

Each plate contribution will donate \$15 to the group, and \$10 for a BMV fee to administrative costs, for a total cost of \$25. The funds collected from this license plate will go toward continuing the essential services and charitable causes of the Weirdo Cat Lovers of Cleveland throughout Northeast Ohio communities.

This is constituent driven legislation, the best type of legislation. Amber, a Seven Hills resident, and active member of the group at the time first reached out to our office in 2020 with a petition with over 200 people. She reached out about getting a license plate made to help raise funds for the group and spread awareness about the several struggles cats and owners may face. I was excited to help them raise funds and awareness on these issues.

In 2023, the group helped 100 cats with almost \$48,000 worth of veterinary care provided by the non-profit. Just this year in 2024, the group already funded 69 emergencies. In addition to emergency veterinary care, they have enacted an End of Life grant that assists cat owners to help their cats pass-on, cremated, and have their ashes returned. This grant has helped over 25 families since enacted.

**19<sup>th</sup> House District:** Southeast Cuyahoga County  
Bedford – Bedford Heights – Bentleyville – Brecksville – Chagrin Falls Township – Chagrin Falls Village – Cleveland Ward 12 (partial) – Cuyahoga Heights – Glenwillow – Hunting Valley – Independence – Mayfield Heights – Moreland Hills – Newburgh Heights – Oakwood Village – Orange – Pepper Pike – Solon – Valley View – Walton Hills – Woodmere

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In the first year the group was founded, they TNR'd 82 cats and kittens, and worked to TNR five other cat colonies in Northeast Ohio. Of the 82 cats, 30 kittens and two cats were adopted into good homes. The remainder were spayed and neutered, received their rabies shot, and were released. The group is currently building a new TNR team to continue their efforts throughout the community.

I recommend everyone go to [www.weirdocatloversofcleveland.org](http://www.weirdocatloversofcleveland.org) and their social media to learn about the good work the group provides to Northeast Ohio. They have a number of success stories about cats and families their group was able to help that you can read further about on their website.

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice-Chair Plummer, Ranking Member Thomas, and members of the committee, I thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions you have.

License Plate Example:



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