



Sharon A. Ray

State Representative

Assistant Majority Whip

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chairman Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy, and members of the House Ways and Means Committee – thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 277.

HB 277 is in response to the growing and complex housing crisis throughout our state where Ohio pet owners are forced to make the heartbreaking decision to surrender their beloved family members due to the lack of pet-friendly and affordable housing options.

The Pet Friendly Rental Act offers a \$750 tax credit, per unit, to landlords who allow their tenants to keep companion animals in their rental units with a max of \$7,500 per taxpayer. Alternatively, the landlord will not be permitted to restrict pets by breed or size, nor impose nonrefundable fees or additional rent related to the pet.

Our legislation does not, in any way, force a landlord to allow a pet to reside in a property - landlords will still have the freedom to have pet free units. Rather, this legislation encourages landlords to implement pet-friendly policies by creating a tax incentive that is designed to offset any potential costs associated with allowing pets in their units.

HB 277 has been brought to us by the Cleveland Animal Protective League and Ohio Animal Welfare Federation – addressing the need to create policies that support and enhance the needs of our constituents who rent.

Chairman Roemer, Vice Chairman Lorenz, Ranking Member Troy and members of the House Ways and Means Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to address you today. We would be happy to answer any questions from the committee at this time.