



PAWS for WCDS  
5694 Burbank Rd  
Wooster, OH 44691  
[www.pawsforwcds.org](http://www.pawsforwcds.org)  
FED ID #84-4434213

October 12, 2025

**Proponent Testimony on House Bill 476  
Submitted to the House Finance Committee**

By Brenda Siladi, President  
PAWS for the Wayne County Dog Shelter  
Wooster, Ohio

Chair Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on House Bill 476, which would authorize charitable nonprofit organizations to sell raffle tickets online.

House Bill 476 is a necessary and focused piece of legislation designed to support nonprofit organizations by explicitly legalizing the online sale of raffle tickets—a fundraising method that has been widely and responsibly used by charitable organizations across Ohio for many years. Currently, the Ohio Revised Code does not clearly permit online raffle sales, creating uncertainty for organizations seeking to expand their fundraising capabilities. This legislation would codify the legality of online raffles, allowing nonprofits to explore innovative ways to engage supporters and raise funds.

At PAWS for the Wayne County Dog Shelter, our mission is to save, protect, and improve the lives of dogs in need throughout Wayne County. We work closely with the Wayne County Dog Shelter to provide medical care, behavioral rehabilitation, spay and neuter programs, and adoption initiatives that ensure each dog has the opportunity to live a healthy and happy life. Our organization is entirely supported by donations and fundraising events.

Online raffles present a significant opportunity for PAWS to reach a broader audience of supporters and potential donors. By enabling individuals from across Ohio—and even beyond—to participate, we could increase fundraising revenue, strengthen community engagement, and build long-term relationships with donors who may not be able to attend in-person events. The funds raised through online raffles could directly support critical initiatives, including medical care for injured or ill dogs, spay and neuter programs to prevent overpopulation, behavioral training for shelter dogs, and enrichment programs that improve the overall quality of life for animals in our care.



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In addition to financial support, online raffles would allow PAWS to increase visibility and awareness of our mission. Through safe and transparent online platforms, we could showcase success stories, highlight urgent needs, and inspire more community members to adopt, volunteer, or donate. This expanded reach would directly translate into more dogs being rescued, rehabilitated, and adopted into loving homes.

Authorizing online raffle ticket sales would provide organizations like ours with the flexibility and legal clarity to grow our fundraising capabilities, support our mission more effectively, and ultimately save more lives.

On behalf of the volunteers, supporters, and animals who benefit from our work, I respectfully urge the committee to advance House Bill 476 and ensure its swift passage.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Brenda Siladi, President  
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