

Chair Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, Ranking Member Sweeney, and members of the House Finance Committee, thank you for allowing me 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 focused piece of legislation aimed at supporting nonprofit organizations by explicitly legalizing the sale of online raffle tickets, a method that has been commonly used in Ohio for many years. Recently, the Ohio Attorney General issued cease and desist letters to several organizations, stating that online raffle ticket sales violate the current Ohio Revised Code. HB 476 seeks to address this issue by codifying online raffle sales, ensuring that nonprofit organizations can continue to raise funds in this manner. HB 476 would restore clarity and security to nonprofit fundraising efforts, allowing these organizations to focus on serving their communities without legal uncertainty.

We support HB 476, which authorizes nonprofit organizations to conduct online raffles. This legislation provides valuable fundraising opportunities for organizations like the South Zanesville Volunteer Fire Department Inc, helping support essential needs such as equipment, training, and operational costs.

Thanks to online raffles, we were able to purchase a second ambulance—significantly increasing our ability to respond to more calls and better serve our community. HB 476 will ensure that departments like ours can continue to use innovative, community-supported fundraising methods to enhance emergency response and public safety.

# WITNESS INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the Witness Information Form before testifying:

Date: 10/11/2025

Name: Russell Taylor

Are you representing: Yourself  Organization

Organization (If Applicable): South Zanesville Volunteer Fire Department Inc.

Position/Title: Fire Chief

Address: 24 E. Main Street.

City: South Zanesville State: Ohio Zip: 43701

Best Contact Telephone: (740) 252-8325 Email: rtaylor@southzanesvillefd.org

Do you wish to be added to the committee notice email distribution list? Yes No

Business before the committee

Legislation (Bill/Resolution Number): HB 476

Specific Issue: Nonprofit Online Raffles

Are you testifying as a: Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Will you have a written statement, visual aids, or other material to distribute? Yes No

(If yes, please send an electronic version of the documents, if possible, to the Chair's office prior to committee. You may also submit hard copies to the Chair's staff prior to committee.)

How much time will your testimony require?