



November 3, 2025

Representative Brian Stewart
Chairman, Ohio House Finance Committee
77 South High Street
Floor 13
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Chairman Stewart,

On behalf of the collective interests of Ohio's 201 credit unions and their 3.3 million members, the Ohio Credit Union League (OCUL) is writing to express our support for House Bill 476. This legislation would allow for the use of 'online raffles' for a variety of organizations including 501(c)(3)'s. This would particularly be of note for the Ohio Credit Union Foundation (OCUF), the 501(c)(3) charitable affiliate of the Ohio Credit Union League that is committed to maximizing innovative and accessible financial resources that enable economic well-being through credit unions.

The Ohio Credit Union Foundation supports initiatives that promote financial empowerment, access, and resilience in Ohio communities through its grant programs. This includes grants for the purposes of financial access, financial education, professional development, and disaster relief. Critical to be able to provide support through the programming grants is the opportunity for OCUF to be able to fundraise the necessary funds needed to provide financial support. By allowing online raffles, it will unlock additional opportunities for OCUF and other charitable organizations to be able to broaden their fundraising base by not requiring the physical presence of donors nor the use of physical tickets.

In addition to the OCUF, a number of member credit unions maintain their own charitable 501(c)(3) foundations which are in line with the credit union philosophy of "people helping people." The dollars raised by these credit union foundations are deployed in their local communities through scholarship programs; housing (including downpayment assistance programs in addition to outright housing construction); financial literacy programming; and support of other community nonprofits assisting the community in areas of need such as food insecurity or healthcare.

The League applauds Representatives Craig and Thomas for their work on this important legislation. Thank you for the opportunity to support House Bill 476. Please feel free to contact me if I can assist the Committee with its important work.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Canan". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Andrew Canan
Director, Government Affairs