



1900 Brice Rd.
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
P: (614) 239-9965
F: (614) 239-9971

Whitehall CAP, Inc. Testimony:

Good morning, Chairman Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla. Ranking Member Sweeney and members of the House Finance Committee. My name is Ian Heyman and I'm here to provide testimony on behalf of Whitehall CAP, Inc.

Founded in 1972, Whitehall CAP, Inc. (WCAP) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable corporation that provides mental health counseling, medication management, and food pantry distributions to all of Central Ohio, with one counseling center in Franklin County, and one counseling center in Fairfield County.

We are Joint Commission Certified, OHMAS credentialed, and have partnered with over 20 major private insurance providers and Ohio Medicaid. Our mission is to ensure access to care for everyone, regardless of their financial situation, through a sliding fee scale. In severe financial hardship, we offer free services to ensure no one is left without help.

A key part of our funding comes from state-licensed bingo fundraising. Under the oversight of the Ohio Attorney General's Office, we operate Type I & II bingo games three times a week, generating half of the funds needed for our operations. The remainder comes from Type III bingo licenses, which allow us to sell instant bingo tickets outside traditional bingo games. This innovative approach enables us to prioritize clients and community needs.

However, recent changes in the way the statutes are applied have created challenges for charitable fundraising. We are requesting a minor statutory update to section 2915.093 to align practices with evolving rules. These updates, which would not expand gaming and were developed in collaboration with the Attorney General's office, will allow us to continue providing critical services such as mental health counseling, substance abuse support, food pantry assistance, and school-based counseling.

Attorney General Dave Yost and Assistant Attorney General Dan Fausey have been instrumental in guiding and supporting us over the years, thereby ensuring compliance and education for all licensed charities. Today, I ask this committee to help us preserve our ability to fundraise effectively and sustain the vital services we've delivered for over 50 years. We are eager to collaborate with the General Assembly to craft updates to charitable fundraising statutes and continue serving our community for decades to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to present today, and I am happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.