



Columbus Office:
Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street, 10th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111

Phone: (614) 644-6041
Fax: (614) 719-6956
Rep06@OhioHouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov

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Phillip M. Robinson Jr.
State Representative
Ohio House District 6

House Bill 379 Sponsor Testimony
House Transportation & Public Safety Committee
December 13, 2022

Chairman Baldrige, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the Ohio House Transportation & Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill (HB) 379, to create the Weirdo Cat Lovers of Cleveland license plate.

Don't let the group's quirky name distract you from the good work they do in our state. The Weirdo Cat Lovers of Cleveland is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2019 with over 18,600 members based in Northeast Ohio, serving the Greater Cleveland area including and beyond Cuyahoga County. Their main goals are to help cat owners with emergency veterinary bills for their feline companions; provide food and litter to those families who have fallen on hard times; and control feral cat populations through trap-neuter-return (TNR) via community initiatives.

The group has TNR'd 82 cats and kittens as of May 15, 2021 and are currently working to TNR five other cat colonies in Northeast Ohio. Of the 82 cats, 30 kittens and two cats were adopted into good homes. The remainder were spayed and neutered, received their rabies shot, and were released. I recommend everyone go to www.weirdocatloversofcleveland.org to learn about the good work the group provides to Northeast Ohio. They have a number of success stories about cats and families their group was able to help that you can read further about on their website.

Each plate contribution will donate \$15 to the group, and \$10 a BMV fee to administrative costs, for a total cost of \$25. The funds collected from this license plate will go toward continuing the essential services and charitable causes of the Weirdo Cat Lovers of Cleveland throughout Northeast Ohio communities.

One of my constituents who is a member of the group, reached out about getting a license plate made to help raise funds for the group and spread awareness about the several struggles cats and owners may face. I was excited to help them raise funds and awareness on these issues.

Chairman Baldrige, Vice-Chair McClain, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the committee, I thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions you have.

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