



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission
June 8, 2017

Co-chairs Senator Tavares, Representative Dever and member of the Commission, my name is Corey Roscoe and I am the Ohio State Director for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) the nation's largest and most effective animal protection organization. On behalf of the HSUS and our Ohio members and supporters, I offer testimony on the Initiative and Referendum Report and Recommendation submitted to you by the Constitutional Revision and Updating Committee.

The Humane Society asks the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission to vote against the proposed recommendation relating to specific changes to the citizen-initiated constitutional amendment process.

We oppose creating a supermajority requirement for voters to amend the constitution and any attempts to weaken the rights of Ohio's citizens to make laws in their state. People who care about animal welfare also care about initiative and referendum rights. Across the nation, citizens have successfully taken important animal welfare issues to the people through the initiative petition process.

We equally oppose the inequity of establishing a double-standard whereby legislative-proposed amendments could pass with a lower vote requirement than required for those proposed by the people and the legislature can put a constitutional amendment on any ballot while citizens can only petition an amendment onto certain election cycle November ballots.

Ohioans are protective of their rights and value a level playing field. The HSUS and our large base of supporters stand with Ohio voters and urge you to vote against the above mentioned proposed recommendations.

Thank you, co-chairs and members of the committee.

Corey Roscoe
Ohio State Director
The Humane Society of the United States