



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Testimony in Support of HB 115

Chief Heinz von Eckartsberg, Dublin Police Department

Representing the OACP

Good afternoon Chair Ginter, Vice Chair Conditt, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Community and Family Advancement Committee.

My name is Heinz von Eckartsberg. I am the Chief of Police at the Dublin Police Department. I am submitting testimony in support of HB 115 on behalf of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police believes that this legislation will benefit members of law enforcement, as well as persons diagnosed with a communication disability. Providing a voluntary process, by which persons with a communication disability can register to be included in a statewide database could help to de-escalate encounters with police by providing a quick way for officers to recognize a diagnosed disability. Including a person's driver's license (or State Identification Card) and license plate information in the database will provide information about an affected person's diagnosis quickly to officers, potentially even before any face to face contact is made.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police is also in favor of the provision in this bill that would stipulate this information would not be a public record.

Thank you for your consideration and for allowing me to provide written testimony to the committee.