



OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Testimony in Support of Sub. HB 115

Chief Heinz von Eckartsberg, Dublin Police Department

Representing the OACP

Chair Coley, Vice Chair Uecker, Ranking Member Schiavoni, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee.

As the current chair of the Legislative Committee of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, I am submitting testimony in support of Sub. HB 115.

The Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police believes strongly that this legislation will benefit persons diagnosed with a communication disability, as well as provide important information to members of law enforcement. 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.