



# Ottawa County Sheriff's Office

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Representative Swearingen  
Ohio House of Representatives 89<sup>th</sup> District

Dear Representative Swearingen,

I am submitting this letter in support of aspects of your proposed legislation regarding Weapons Under Disability and the Weapons Disability Data Portal.

I completely agree that the offense of having a weapon under disability should be expanded. This is one area where there should be much more emphasis when speaking about protecting innocent people. With current law, a person having a weapon under disability is held to minimal standards and receive little, if any true penalty for such an offense. The ability of courts to impose stronger penalty for having a weapon under disability would greatly deter those who would otherwise not think twice of breaking this law.

I also believe that a weapons under disability data portal is a very good idea. I do, however, question the integrity of information received unless it is consistent in reporting across the state. I also believe that there must be a statewide resource which would allow all law enforcement and courts across the state to have access to all of this collected information. Lastly, I believe that there must be a plan in place to ensure that all information received is properly vetted, entered, and shared with those partners in need of the information.

The sealing of juvenile court records should definitely be extended as stated. I believe that in many cases, the identification of people who are actually troubled by either mental illness or

other factors which can contribute to inappropriate or illegal behavior is delayed. This can often be because of the offender's ability to hide such behavior and / or their lack of immediate supervision. By extending the expungement date, this would allow for further observation and / or opportunity to better identify persons who would be identified as someone who should be disabled from possessing a weapon.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to respond to your proposed bill. I would be glad to speak further with you on any topic that you may find fitting. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shiff S.J. Levorchick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shiff" being more prominent and stylized.

Stephen J. Levorchick  
Sheriff, Ottawa County