



Mental Health & Recovery Services Board
SENECA, OTTAWA, SANDUSKY & WYANDOT COUNTIES

December 18, 2023

To:

Ohio Representative Gary Click- District 88

Ohio Representative Brian Lorenz- District 60

Members of the Ohio House- Homeland Security Committee

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties to express our full support for the proposed H.B. 321: To Enact Section 128.29 of the Revised Code to Establish a Statewide 9-1-1 Special Needs Database.

This proposed legislation will allow individuals with special needs to enroll in the electronic statewide 9-1-1 system. Our organization knows first-hand how important and critical the interaction between first responders and individuals with special needs is, including developmental disabilities and/or mental illness. Through our local Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, we educate first responders on various methods and techniques on how to de-escalate a situation when interacting with individuals who experiences a mental health crisis. The proposed Special Needs Database will add another tool that first responders can utilize when interacting with individuals with special needs. Furthermore, this proposed Special Needs Database will also be very beneficial for the safety of individuals with special needs.

I am asking for your support regarding H.B. 321. If you have any question, please contact me at 419-448-0640 or email at director@mhsosw.org.

Sincerely,

Mircea Handru, MBA
Executive Director