

Greetings honorable members of the House Homeland Security Committee, my name is Jim Kemmerle and I was pleased to hear about the 9-1-1 registry that you are proposing under HB 321 and wanted to share with you some insight that I have gained from what we are doing in Ashtabula County.

To provide a brief background, I am a retired Lieutenant from our county's Sheriff's Department currently working as the Manager of Investigative Services for our county board of developmental disabilities. My background has given me some good insight on the capabilities of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system in our county and the knowledge that it has a "Person Alert" and "Address Alert" capability. This capability allows dispatchers to enter information into the system which alerts dispatchers when that person or address is entered for a call. We've created forms to be filled out by the DD individual or guardian, if they choose to participate, with important information for first responders such as triggers, calming techniques, disability, and emergency contact information.

I met with all of our dispatch agencies prior to implementing this system and received good feedback on information that they would like to include on the form. I frequently speak with police, fire and EMS first responders in our county who consider this information invaluable.

Having had a foot in the law enforcement arena, I would have loved to have had information such as what we are providing on our forms on the occasions that I've encountered DD individuals on calls for service. While, thankfully, we haven't yet had an occasion where one of these forms has been relevant on a call, I'm sure that the time will come and I'm confident that it will prove valuable. I applaud Representative Click and Representative Lorenz for their work in sponsoring this bill. If I could be of service as it moves through committees, please feel free to reach out.

Jim Kemmerle