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To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my deep concern for the safety and well-being of children with autism in our community. As you may be aware, these children often face unique challenges that can put them at risk in various environments, and it is crucial that we come together to support and protect them.

I strongly advocate for the implementation of policies that safeguard the rights of children with autism. One of the most pressing issues is the urgent need for a notification system to alert our community when a child on the autism spectrum goes missing. Statistics show that every minute counts in such situations, and we must be proactive in ensuring a swift response from law enforcement. Initiatives like beginning searches near bodies of water and surrounding areas immediately can make a significant difference—an alarming number of drownings have occurred when searches were delayed.

In light of this, I fully support Jonisa Cook's plea for the establishment of the "Joshua Alert" system for missing children with autism. A system that promptly notifies the community can mobilize more eyes and hands for the search, thereby increasing the likelihood of a positive outcome. Together, we can work to create a safer environment for these vulnerable children.

I urge you to consider the importance of this cause and to support efforts in creating a responsive system that can make a real difference in the lives of children with autism and their families. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Anita L Walton

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Founding member and Co-Chair of AUTISM AND WE.