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Chairman Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and esteemed members of the Ohio House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for allowing me to speak on this bill.

For those not aware, my son Henry is on the autism spectrum. He's a phenomenal kid, and he is very high functioning. Henry, like my other three children has his license and he drives our car around. Henry is the best driver out of the four of my children, and hopefully my daughters do not get too upset with that comment. However, I remember a few years back when Henry was pulled over for not having his lights on. Thank goodness that the school resource officer was the one who stopped him, because he knew Henry very well. He calmed Henry down and simply told him to call his mom and to put it on speakerphone. Again, Henry is a great kid, but high-pressure situations like this are very stressful. Without the officer being someone that Henry knew, the situation could have gone a lot differently. Delaware County has since implemented a special needs registry which assists with these sorts of situations.

Our job as the state legislature is to create laws that better the citizens of Ohio. My joint sponsor and I, believe that House Bill 144 will do just that. This bill is geared towards ensuring that our police, fire department, and emergency medical services have as much information as possible when responding to situations. Individuals with a disability as outlined in this bill deserve our support and as a state, we are not doing enough to help them. Individuals with a disability, deal with challenges, and situations that oftentimes we do not think about. These situations require unique responses, and we believe House Bill 144 will help our first responders appropriately handle situations involving someone with a disability. This bill will help those first responders and Ohioans with disabilities.

House Bill 144 is a bipartisan piece of legislation that should be well supported by this body. Chairman Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and esteemed members of the Ohio House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for allowing me to speak on this bill.