



MHR SB

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

April 28, 2025

To:

Ohio Representative Gary Click- District 88

Ohio Representative Brian Lorenz- District 60

Members of the Ohio House- Community Revitalization Committee

Chairman Click, Vice Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the Ohio House Community Revitalization 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. 144, also known as Keith's Law.

Our organization represents individuals struggling with mental illness and addiction, many of whom encounter first responders in our communities. This proposed legislation will allow individuals with mental health conditions, instead of only communication disability, to be included in the registry. This proposed legislation also makes the database available to emergency medical services through each countywide 911 system. Our organization knows first-hand how important and critical the interaction between first responders and individuals with special needs is, including 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 experience a mental health crisis. The proposed legislation will add another tool that first responders can utilize when interacting with individuals with special needs.

I am asking for your support regarding H.B. 144. If you have any question, please contact me at 419-448-0640 or email at director@mhsosw.org.

Sincerely,

Mircea Handru, MBA
Executive Director