

## Keith's Law, HB 144, Proponent Testimony

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to express support for Keith's Law, HB 144. As the Executive Director & Chief Instructor of the Ohio based non profit organization AATAP – Autism Awareness Training and Acceptance Program. The parent of a child with Severe/Profound Autism as well as epilepsy, who requires 24/7 one on one support for his health & safety. And as a career Police Officer here in Ohio.

In my professional & personal experience. I can not stress enough the importance of and the need to have a state wide secure VOLUNTARY registry that first-responders state wide can have access to in order to better assist individuals that have a developmental, neurological, or cognitive disability or special need. As well as individuals that have a mental or behavioral health condition.

First Responders having ready access to this volunteered information can be the difference between life or death or critical injury to not only the individuals themselves but also for the first responders. Individuals with these conditions have a statistically much higher rate of interactions with first-responders. Much better outcomes can be achieved for everyone involved, if first-responders have information on how to better support and assist these individuals. If anyone ever has any questions or would like more information on this important topic. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you – Justin Meade

AATAP Executive Director & Chief Instructor

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