

Hello. My name is Benjamin Feltoon and I write you in the hopes of getting your support for SB4. This bill relates to the redaction of public records for certain public employees that are involved in the safety and criminal justice services.

Currently, the section provides for the redaction of personal home addresses for people that are employed as a peace officer, parole officer, probation officer, bailiff, prosecuting attorney, assistant prosecuting attorney, correctional employee, youth services employee, firefighter, EMT, investigator of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, or federal law enforcement officer.

My request is that those employed as an emergency service telecommunicator, which is defined in ORC4742.01 be added to the list of qualifying professions that may be covered under this protection by passing SB4.

Emergency services telecommunicators are an integral part in the role of safety forces providing their services. These dedicated professionals are often heard but rarely seen. They are even more rarely recognized and easily forgotten for their role in providing an essential service to all those in the communities in which they serve.

These telecommunicators can often be subject to threats of retaliation from people who are unhappy with them, the agency for whom they work, or government workers in general.

My wife, Jordan, works as a dispatcher for a regional dispatch center that provides services to seventeen communities on the east side of Cuyahoga County.

One of the communities that she dispatches for is the City of Euclid. A few years ago, Euclid had the national spotlight shined upon it for some incidents involving some of its police officers. My wife, among numerous of her coworkers, answered calls from people who were upset with the actions of the Euclid officers. Many people wanted to vent their frustrations, and there were several that threatened the safety and lives of my wife and her coworkers. Although my wife is not employed directly by the City of Euclid, non-emergency calls to the

Euclid Police Department are routed to her dispatch center. It seemed that many of those people who made threatening calls felt that my wife, being associated with the Euclid police Department, was an appropriate person to threaten harm and death. This is one such example that illustrates the need to allow for additional protection for these telecommunicators.

If a person feels that a dispatcher did not handle their call appropriately or in a timely manner they may blame any harm, whether it be real or perceived, on that dispatcher.

By allowing them to redact their information, a courtesy that is provided to the responders and court personnel, you will be allowing an extra layer of protection to be provided to these essential people. It will help reduce the fear that someone who is unhappy with them or the agency that employs them will come to their house and cause them or their family harm.

It is my belief that this action should be taken now, and not after an incident occurs. This easily correctable issue will not cost the taxpayers of the state any money. It will also a big step into recognizing the work of emergency service telecommunicators and acknowledging the risks that can come with the job.

I know that my wife would be happy to provide you with more examples of times how dispatchers could benefit from this amendment. I can also provide you with other dispatchers who would be happy to make their case in support of this amendment.

There is so much in this world that is difficult or cannot be changed. This legislation is easy, free, and the right thing to do.

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