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Jessica E. Miranda

State Representative

Chairman Lipps, Vice-Chair Holmes, Ranking member Boyd, and members of the House Health Committee,

Thank you for having this important hearing today on House Bill 543. This legislation will amend portions of the Revised Code regarding the Uniform Duties to the Incapacitated Persons act and identifying devices. HB 543 simply meant to update the law's understanding as it relates to first responders, their interactions with incapacitated individuals, and the many technological advancements in this field. The portions of code to be modified by HB 543 have not been revised since their introduction in 1976. And, unfortunately, some aspects of this code are just simply outdated. Whether it is terms used or descriptions given, the original section of code has a 1976 understanding of how EMTs and other first responders address and care for incapacitated individuals.

As you will hear about more in the second testimony on this bill today, this disconnect between the code as written and the reality of 2020 is perfectly demonstrated by "identifying devices". As the code stands now, this term "identifying devices" has no concept of the technical advancements in this field. Simply describing them as "an identifying bracelet, necklace, metal tag, or similar device bearing the emergency

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symbol and the information needed in an emergency” does not adequately cover what this device has become in the year 2020. A new form of identifying device, medical ID bracelets, have become available and offer so much potential. Individuals who have underlying health conditions and that are at a greater risk for suffering an incapacitating episode now utilize these more advanced bracelets. Including all the information any first responder would need at the scan of a bar code, this technological breakthrough must be accurately reflected in the law.

Too often we hear stories of EMTs or first responders arriving on scene and not checking an incapacitated person for an identifying device or a Medical ID bracelet. To be clear, this is through no fault of the first responders. The culprit for the procedural mistake is really in the training. A training that looks to the Ohio Revised Code for its description of terms. By updating this portion of the law we can begin the process of modernizing the way we train first responders and how they interact with persons they are providing care for.

HB 543 serves as a common sense solution to bridge the gap between past and current understanding of these technical terms. This bill is just good government going through and modernizing the law to better reflect the practices, words, and equipment utilized by first responders. Thank you.