

60th House District
Delaware County
(City of Delaware, Powell, Liberty
Township and Ostrander)

Columbus Office
Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street
11th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 644-6711
Rep60@ohiohouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov/brian-lorenz



Ways and Means (Vice Chair)
Financial Institutions
Insurance
Public Health Policy

Brian Lorenz
State Representative

November 5, 2023

Chairman Ghanbari, Vice Chair Plumber, Ranking Member Thomas:

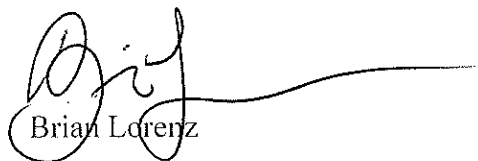
Our special needs community is vulnerable and different. Kids and adults alike bring individual challenges to situations that you and I often don't think about in our everyday interactions. For those not aware, my son Henry is on the autism spectrum. He's a great kid, pretty high functioning and he even drives. Probably my best driver out of my four.

However, I remember a few years back when he was pulled over for not having his lights on. Thank goodness the school resource officer stopped him and knew him. He calmed Henry down and simply told him to call his mom (of course not me) and put her on speakerphone. Now my son knows right from wrong, but had he not known the deputy the interaction could have very different.

Since that time Delaware County has implemented a special needs registry which assists with these situations. Through to course of this bill experts will speak on behalf of the need for this approach statewide. There is minimal impact to the implementing authority and this is supported by many in the special needs community.

It's a nonpartisan bill that should be embraced for its approach to help kids and adults as well and just as important those first responders who can prepare for engagement. Completely voluntary, the legislation addresses a statewide need to assist this vulnerable population. Thank you!

Respectfully,


Brian Lorenz