



Gina DeGenova

Mahoning County Prosecuting Attorney

January 16th, 2024

The Ohio House Homeland Security Committee
1 Capital Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: 135th General Assembly Regular Session, 2023-2024 / H. B. No. 321

Dear Homeland Security Committee Representatives:

The Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office is in support of H. B. No. 32 to enact section 128.29 of the Revised Code to establish a statewide 9-1-1 special needs database.

The Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office, in collaboration with the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office, developed a special needs registry for Mahoning County in 2021. The Mahoning County Special Needs Registry is a voluntary service open to all citizens with special needs who reside in Mahoning County. The registry was created to help police officers and other emergency service personnel better assist residents with special needs in the event of an emergency by providing those first responders with vital information regarding a registrant's special needs, emergency contact information, physical description, and a current photo.

The goal of the Special Needs Registry is to ensure all Mahoning County residents who may require special assistance can get the help and support they need in times of emergency or during interaction with Law Enforcement, Fire, or EMS personnel. Mahoning County is also developing a Blue Envelope Program, to assist individuals with special needs with communicating with law enforcement officers during traffic stops.

Mahoning County has found these programs highly successful and the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office supports the development of an electronic statewide 9-1-1 system special needs registry to support individuals with special needs across the State of Ohio.

Sincerely,



Gina DeGenova

Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office