

April 26, 2017

Senator Larry Obhof
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Subject: HB115 - Create register of persons having a communication disability

Dear Senator Obhof:

I am writing on behalf of the Autism Society of Ohio in support of HB115.

The core characteristics of autism are communication, social and behavioral differences. Combined, these characteristics have created challenges for being misunderstood when interfacing with law enforcement. HB115 will provide law enforcement with an additional tool when interacting with individuals with a variety of developmental disabilities, including individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

The Autism Society of Ohio, which includes the six affiliates throughout Ohio, strongly supports this bill and we believe it will better support both law enforcement and individuals with autism and keep everyone involved in interactions between the two safer.

We urge you to introduce HB115 in the Senate as soon as it is passed by the House and do all you can to facilitate its passage. If you have any questions, or if we can assist in this effort, please do not hesitate to contact Barbara Yavorcik, Autism Society of Ohio Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, at 419-787-8124 or Barb@autismohio.org.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Kathi Machle
President of the Board
Autism Society of Ohio

The Autism Society of Ohio (ASO) is a statewide affiliate of the Autism Society of America. It is a coalition of the local Ohio affiliates (Greater Akron, Central Ohio, Greater Cincinnati, Greater Cleveland, Mahoning Valley, and Northwest Ohio). ASO's mission is to "improve the lives of all affected by autism," and focuses its efforts on advocating for individuals with autism, their families and those who work with them. ASO also serves as a resource for information and support in areas where our local affiliates do not cover, mainly rural communities. ASO's mission is to "improve the lives of all affected by autism", with a focus on advocacy and autism awareness across the state. ASO also serves as a resource for information, programming and support in areas not served by a local affiliate.