



Guardians 4 Change Group

Date: September 14, 2023

To: Senator Will C. Smith

From: Guardians 4 Change Group

Re: Eric's ID Law

After serving my community for 21 years as a law enforcement officer (LEO), I've received a lot of tools and training to be a more efficient and effective servant. No training was more impactful than the Dressed in Blue training I received about Autism. It enlightened me and changed my perception of individuals living with invisible disabilities.

Those that truly honor the badge want to protect and serve. They want to heal the wounds in police and community relations. Eric's ID law will give them a chance to make a good first impression.

Ironically, LEOs depend on IDs to assist them with how they may interact with citizens they encounter. We ask for IDs at traffic stops. We ask for IDs when walking the beat. We check IDs to ensure proper service of legal documents. Many other entities in our society depend on proper and effective IDs. We must show IDs to see our children in the schools. We must show IDs to travel to see the world. We need IDs to seek proper medical treatment. IDs are a small but the most powerful tool we use to present our true selves to society.

I stand in full support of Eric's ID law. Eric's ID law will give citizens, who are unable to speak up for themselves, a voice. Eric's ID law will give LEOs the opportunity to effectively assess a situation and provide the proper services to resolve a situation peacefully. Eric's ID law gives LEOs a chance to make a long-lasting positive impression on individuals with invisible disabilities. Eric's ID law is a blessed step toward healing community and police relations.

Always in service,

Yakeisha Poole

Retired Captain, PGSO

Founder of the Guardians 4 Change Group

