



Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities
at Kennedy Krieger Institute
Building Partnerships. Changing Lives.

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary
Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee
Room 131 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information on HB1176 - Voluntary 9-1-1 Registry for Individuals Needing Special Assistance

Dear Chairman Atterbeary,

The Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (MCDD) at Kennedy Krieger Institute appreciates your introduction of the Voluntary 9-1-1 registry. This legislation will support individuals with disabilities in their encounters with law enforcement.

As you are aware, the MCDD is proud to be Maryland's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (UCEDD) and a member of the national Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD). MCDD links the community to vital services, research, and information to improve the lives of people with disabilities. Our mission is to provide leadership that advances the inclusion of people with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities through preservice preparation and training; research and evaluation; community service and technical assistance; and information dissemination. This includes ensuring that individuals are living safely within their communities.

This legislation has tremendous potential in assisting law enforcement and emergency personnel to assist individuals with disabilities in emergency situations. We also appreciate that the registry is voluntary and has an annual communication commitment to reach out to participants to see if they are interested in remaining on the list.

We encourage the committee to meet with stakeholders in the disability community to discuss potential next steps of the legislation, including future training for police and first responders on de-escalation techniques, protecting the data, monitoring and data analysis of the list, advertisement of the program, and more.

We deeply appreciate the efforts of the Committee to create a voluntary 9-1-1 registry for individuals with disabilities.

Respectfully,

Maureen van Stone, Esq., M.S.
Director of the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities

For more information, visit mcdd.kennedykrieger.org