

HB 1176
Voluntary 9-1-1 Registry for Individuals Needing Special Assistance
Health and Government Operations
March 8, 2023

Support

Dear Health and Governmental Affairs Committee:

Please support HB 1176, the Voluntary 9-1-1 Registry for Individuals Needing Special Assistance which is being presented in the Health Government Operations Committee on March 8, 2023 and is being sponsored by Delegate Atterbeary. Please note that this particular bill supports a statewide registry which is already available in Howard County.

This voluntary registry authorizes individual adults, parents or guardians of minor children, or guardians of individuals with special needs to register with local jurisdictions or call centers to inform first responders of behaviors, traits or diagnoses of certain individuals and provide another tool for first responders to appropriately support the registered individual.

My adult son, Matthew, immediately signed up for the Howard County registry when it was available which has given him a "peace of mind." Approximately two years ago, Howard County Fire and Rescue arrived at Matthew's home to find him unresponsive and incoherent because he was in a diabetic coma. Knowing Matthew was a Type 1 diabetic and his other disabilities allowed first responders to respond quickly and appropriately, and transport him to a facility to begin treatment. We believed it saved his life.

The registry is working well in Howard County. Yet, if Matthew travels outside of Howard County this registry information would not be available to first responders. Matthew presents as a very small man with a visual impairment and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. The lack of information could hinder the first responder's response.

It is important that certain aspects of this bill are maintained, in particular that individuals inform their local jurisdiction or call center annually to insure that their contact information is up-to-date and the ability for adults and children entering adulthood to have the opportunity to remove themselves from the directory if they choose to do so.

Thank you for your support of this bill.

Best,

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