

HEALTH and GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
HOUSE BILL 1176: Voluntary 9-1-1 Registry for Individuals Needing Special Assistance  
March 8, 2023

POSITION: SUPPORT with Amendments

My name is Anthony Zanfordino, I am submitting the following on behalf of the Arc Maryland Governmental Affairs committee.

There is a need for the voluntary 9-1-1 registry for individuals needing Special Assistance. The job of a first responder is difficult, but this bill provides an additional tool for their response mechanisms. Also, it provides an improved way to communicate and collaborate with the families.

Why is this initiative important for both first responders AND people with IDD?

- For first responder: Advance knowledge of individual's unique needs, triggers, medications, etc., tips for supporting.
- For individual: peace of mind; for some it is a health/quality of life matter; individuals can be heard even when they may not be able to speak, conscious, etc.

As a parent of child with Down syndrome having this available is important. I would be happy to put my son on this list because it helps him and the first responders. They will know up front about potential communication challenges, behaviors, or overall awareness. It's all about helping him be safe along with the first responders.

We support the clarifying amendment from DRM that a person can remove themselves from the registry at any time. It's important for people to have a choice.

Also, similar registries exist in Howard County and Charles County.