

Good Morning My name is William Smolinski Sr  
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address  
this committee on  mandating the way law  
enforcement and medical examiners respond to  
investigations into missing persons and the  
unidentified.

The purpose and intent of this legislation is to  
centralize the collection and dissemination of  
information concerning missing persons. It is  
intended to bring all available information, from  
initial reports to DNA, to a centralized location that  
allows all agencies access to vital information. It is  
also to develop standardized reporting and response  
techniques for local and state agencies.

It is NOT intended to  change the agencies  
responsible for conducting physical searches or to  
change the agencies currently with primary  
responsibility-including municipal police and fire  
agencies. It is not intended to limit the resources  
brought to a search-but rather to bring all available  
resources, including volunteer K9 search and rescue  
teams, who have the ability to assist law enforcement  
in rapid and thorough response.

From a father, mother or sister's perspective,  
knowing that there are resources available, data bases  
that already exist and knowing that these are not

implemented adds to the pain and frustration that we and so many others already feel.

When Billy was first reported missing, there was no response. He was an adult, free to go wherever he wanted, whenever he wanted. The fact that we gave information that suggested otherwise did not seem to make a difference. We had no idea where to turn. We have learned so much over these long, painful years. Some of that is contained in this legislation. This legislation is not just for our Billy-but for all the Billys now and in the future.

We have had the opportunity to learn much more about the capabilities of the volunteer resources and how they can work with the police and fire departments- effectively. They are trained to do this work. Their dogs are trained to do this work.

We have learned of many others who struggle as we do every day. We have also learned that no system is perfect, no legislation will bring everyone home.

But-it is a step. If it helps just one family-it is well worth

~~success.~~ <sup>THE EFFORT.</sup> Thank you