

Philadelphia Police and Fire Association
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Serving People With Special Needs
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Philadelphia, PA 19101

Attention: Letters to the Editor

Although the fraud in the heinous situation where people with intellectual disabilities were held captive and victims of human trafficking for their Social Security checks was uncovered and is important, all fraud should be dealt with. More importantly, let's not forget these were human beings chained in this basement, who were being abused and neglected in the worse way. They could be our family member, our friend, our neighbor. Pennsylvania has a law that was put into place last year. A law with no power or authority to oversee it, so it is useless. It is a benign effort without intent. It may look good for the politicians but is meaningless in its ability to truly protect someone.

No wonder criminals like this can wander into Pennsylvania and feel free to commit such outrageous acts. No one is really watching if you are not registered in the system **and over 16,000 are not** because Pennsylvania leaves them languishing on a waiting list, again because of money. Crimes against people with intellectual disabilities are often kept quiet in this state. In Pennsylvania our new administration has failed to send a message that this will not be tolerated.

As fellow citizens with, hopefully, a moral compass we have a ethical obligation to protect the innocent and vulnerable.

Governor Corbett step up to the plate and fulfill your campaign commitment to see that people with intellectual disabilities are afforded lives that are safe and free from harm. See your administration sets aside the money necessary to put into place the entities needed to protect and ensure safe harbor in the State of Pennsylvania for people with disabilities. We do it for animals; let's do it for vulnerable people too.

Sincerely,

John Armstrong, President