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Ohio House of Representatives



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April 4, 2000

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OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN
P.U.C.O.

Alan R. Schriber, Chair
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

RE: Case No. 93-1799-TP-CO1

Dear Dr. Schriber:

New occasions bring new duties and these include our obligation to use new or existing technologies to promote community service and assistance. I am writing, accordingly, to state my support of an initiative currently pending before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO). Designation of 211 as an access number for community service referrals will end the frustration and confusion that exist when individuals try to reach out for help and assistance not knowing where to reach that assistance. Designating 211 as a statewide community services referral number makes sense. It is time to act!

Ohio Information and Referral organizations respond to over 500,000 calls each year from Ohioans in crisis or struggling with ongoing problems. The 211 number will help reduce the number of inappropriate 911 calls and as public awareness increases, 211 will become an outreach tool that will help community service agencies reach families in need.

I encourage a serious and thoughtful consideration of this initiative. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Jon Peterson