

Hello, my name is Jonathan Gardner. I am 18 years old, I live in East Bridgewater Massachusetts. I like video games, anime, and wrestling. My vision is to help others. I happen to have autism and cancer.

I have been using supported decision-making to help me fight Cancer and also for my Mental Health.

My supporters are My Mom, Dad, my brother Eric, and Mrs. Clifford.

My Mom supports me in my daily life, money management decision-making for my health and mental health, friendship, advocating and working.

My Dad supports me in my daily life, money management, decision making for my health, love advice, and friendships

Eric helps me with Friendship and my love life

Mrs. Clifford helps me with my mental health strategies.

Fighting Cancer has been one of the hardest journeys of my life. And I have been through a lot of hard journeys already. I am so thankful I was given the freedom to choose how I go about my treatments.

SDM makes me feel involved with my life and choosing how and when I will be getting my treatments. I can let my body and voice guide me with the support from my Mom and Dad. I don't have many choices when it comes to having Cancer but at least I can control when and how we do it.

Guardianship would be worse than death because I would lose my choice. I fully trust my team but I want to make choices for my own life. Without SDM I would not be able to do this the way I need to for my own mental health.

Here is a little story for you. I was doing chemo and radiation at the same time for a long time. I was starting to break until I broke. After cooling down. I was able to put my faith in my Mom as my support person for both my health and mental health to come up with a plan that would work for me.

Whenever I go into an appointment of any kind my Doctors expect to see my mom too. They call us a Jonathan and Momma.

I think SDM should be law because it gives everyone a choice for freedom and to choose who supports them.

At the end of the day, everyone deserves to choose for themselves.