

November 22, 2021

The Honorable Adam Gomez, Senate Chair
The Honorable Michael J. Finn, House Chair
Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities
Massachusetts State House
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Written Testimony on S 124 and H 272 – Supported Decision-Making

Dear Chairs Gomez and Finn and Members of the Committee:

I am Johnathan Jenkins, and I like Supported Decision Making! I have my family and closest friend help me understand decisions and help me pursue my interests. On my SDM Team, I have My Mom, Dad, Sister Sam, Aunt Debbie, Aunt Shannon, Grandma, and my friend Maggy.

When I need help with decisions I usually look to my mom and dad for support. However, I also speak to my other team members when they are visiting.

My SDM Team has helped me out at my job. I work at Guidos Marketplace, and my SDM Team helped me get extra hours. I like to work and make money, and I needed help getting more hours, and so I had my team help me. I work with my job coach Aunt Debbie and I have worked for Guidos for 11 years. I love it there!

My SDM Team helps me grow in my skills, such as with my banking, making health decisions at doctors and dentist appointments, and buying healthy food choices. My SDM Team is very important to me, and I trust them.

Since starting the SDM Pilot Program, I have made many awesome decisions in my life with my SDM Team. I have saved money and purchased a SMART TV and have renovated my room. I have traveled with my friends to many places such as California, Tennessee, Las Vegas, Arizona, and Florida. I enjoy going on vacations, because I get to see some of my favorite friends like my friend Billy Tobin in Florida. Here is a video where you can learn more about my SDM story: <https://supporteddecisions.org/stories-of-supported-decision-making/johnathans-story/>

In Closing, Supported Decision Making is important to me because I feel I can make my own decisions and get help from my team to reach my goals. I am thankful for CPR and Nonotuck for the SDM Pilot Program. It has changed my life. I am excited to be the Newest leader in SDM!!! Please Vote for the SDM Bills, and let's help people with disabilities be able to keep their voices with support.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Johnathan Jenkins
Dalton, MA