

8/19/25

The Honorable Robyn K. Kennedy, Senate Chair

The Honorable Jay D. Livingstone, House Chair

Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with
Disabilities

Massachusetts State House

Boston, MA 02133

Re: Written Testimony on S. 155. and H. 261. – Supported
Decision-Making

Dear Chairs Kennedy and Livingstone and Members of the
Committee:

I am Amanda Jo Benoit. I live in Pittsfield with my caregiver
Sandy and her family. I have been using SDM for 10 years. I
am happy to share with you some of my decisions I made with
support from my SDM Team.

On my SDM Team I have Sandy, My Mom, and my two friends
Maggy and Diane. When I need help with decisions I look to
Sandy for support. I also speak to my SDM Team when they are
with me.

My SDM Team helps me with decisions with: My Health;
Money; Karate, a new day program, traveling and
with my relationships.

Sandy and my SDM team have supported me with my health care. Sandy spoke to me about my health decisions and helped me understand the pro's and the con's and this helped me make a decision.

SDM is key because I have my Green Belt in Taekwando, I have traveled to many places with my friends.

Maggy and I went to London, Paris, and Rome. In the end, My Voice Matters! Please support the SDM Bill and help us follow our dreams.

Amanda Jo Benoit
Supported Decision Making User
Pittsfield, MA