

My name is Beth Kollett, I am a totally blind self advocate. When I went away for high school at Perkins School for the Blind 1998-2004, they strongly recommended guardianship to all their residential students. I did not want that! I wanted to make my own decisions. In 2008 I got involved with Mass Advocates Standing Strong. I held many officer positions in the Blackstone Valley Region and then the Central region where I am now regional manager. My time with MASS led me to Supported Decision Making when I attended the 2017 MASS conference. I wanted and needed this in my life. SDM would give me freedom to make my own decisions. I encourage people to stand up for their rights and use SDM to make their own choices. On August 24th 2022 with my dedicated peer guided support team from MASS, I was the first MA resident to have my SDM plan notarized. We are individuals who need to make their own choices in their daily lives. I am asking you to please pass the SDM Bills, H 261/ S155 and make it a law following 39 states and the District of Columbia which have passed legislation that formally recognize and supports SDM laws in some form. Thank you
Beth