

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:

My name is James Cowell, I live in Pittsfield MA. I am proud to support the Supported Decision Making Bill. I was introduced to Supported Decision Making seven years ago. When Nonotuck approached me about Supported Decision Making I thought it was cool. On my SDM Team, I chose, my mom Marie, my dad Ray and my sister Shannon who is also a person with disabilities.

Since starting to use Supported Decision Making, I have made big decisions in my life such as traveling to Texas to visit my family. I have gone to Wrestle Mania to see my favorite wrestler Hulk Hogan. I am planning on going to more Wrestling events this summer. My SDM Team has helped me with my goals and dreams.

I love advocating for Supported Decision Making. In the most recent years, I was asked to do an interview with Salon Magazine on SDM. This was such a great opportunity because they were trying to advocate on different models than Guardianship in the Brittany Spears case. I was happy to advocate for Supported Decision Making because it's a model that helps people keep their voice.

My Voice Matters, Please support SDM!

James Cowell

Supported Decision Making user

Pittsfield MA

