



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

KATHY BERNIER

January 30, 2018

Assembly Committee on Family Law

Testimony on Assembly Bill 655 relating to Supported Decision-Making agreements

Good morning Chairman Rodriguez and committee members. Thank you for scheduling Assembly Bill 655 for this public hearing.

Supported Decision-Making provides the opportunity for older adults and people with disabilities to remain fully in charge of their decision making, while enabling them to access support they need to make life decisions. Assembly Bill 655 incorporates "Supported Decision-Making" as a legally recognized agreement. These agreements address the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, their support networks, and the professionals with whom they interact.

In a Supported Decision-Making Agreement, the Person chooses a Supporter or Supporters - trusted relatives, friends, and people with expertise in a particular area - to help them gather information, understand their options, and communicate their decisions to others. Supported Decision-Making can be used for decisions that a Person feels they need additional support for, including housing, health care, financial decisions, or other areas the Person identifies. With Supported Decision-Making, the Person always makes the final decision.

Assembly Bill 655 also ensures that the Supported Decision-Making process is flexible and can be updated easily as the Person's ability and capacity to make decisions changes over time. Supported Decision-Making does not replace Wisconsin's existing guardianship system. Instead, it provides an additional option for individuals and families seeking assistance with life decisions. For many people, Supported Decision-Making agreements may be the only tool they need.

Supported Decision-Making Agreements can be used in combination with other legal arrangements (including Power of Attorney or limited guardianship). These options are not mutually exclusive and can be used to complement each other.

Already Texas and Delaware have enacted supported decision-making agreements and Tennessee has introduced similar legislation. Indiana, Maine, and North Carolina are also exploring Supported Decision-Making legislation. I hope Wisconsin will join these states in providing this common-sense tool to our seniors and people with disabilities.

This concludes my testimony. Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of AB 655.

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Luther S. Olsen

State Senator

14th District

TO: Assembly Committee on Family Law
FROM: Senator Olsen
DATE: January 30th, 2018
SUBJECT: Testimony for Assembly Bill 655

Thank you Chairwoman Rodriguez and members of the Assembly Committee on Family Law for holding a hearing and allowing me to testify in support of Assembly Bill 655.

At some point in our lives we have all needed help making a well-informed decision. Whether it was about college, a career, a house, a new car, or healthcare. When making an important decision, we often ask questions and gather information from people around us that we trust or from people that are experts in their field.

Often times, older adults and people with disabilities reach a point in their lives that they may need assistance in making a well-informed decision. Under currently law, if an adult or person with disabilities cannot make a decision on their own, their options are a Power of Attorney or Guardianship. Under both of these options, they would give someone of their choice some or all decision making authority for themselves. Many older adults and people with disabilities are capable of making decisions, but they need help to gather information to make a well-informed decision.

Assembly Bill 655 would allow older adults or people with disabilities to create an agreement to allow another person to assist them in making a well-informed decision. This "supporter" would assist the adult in gathering information that is relevant to a medical, financial, or educational decision. This bill directs The Department of Health Services to provide access to a form that would need to be signed and dated before two adult witnesses or a notary. They will also be required to provide information regarding supported decision making.

This legislation will allow adults to continue to make their own decisions rather than giving up their ability to make the final decision just because they needed some assistance. Thank you members, I ask for your support on Assembly Bill 655 and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.



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Lisa Pugh, State Director
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January 30, 2018

To: Representative Rodriguez, Chair
Members, Assembly Committee on Family Law

From: Lisa Pugh, Executive Director

Re: Assembly Bill 655, Supported Decision-making Agreements

Position: Support AB 655

The Arc Wisconsin is a statewide organization that advocates for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). We have 15 local Wisconsin chapters and are connected to a network of more than 650 chapters across the country. The Arc is the oldest and largest disability rights advocacy organization in this state and in the nation.

The Arc is one of the original proponents of Supported Decision-Making nationally, and has been actively promoting the adoption of supported decision-making legislation in states like Wisconsin that have high rates of guardianship to develop less restrictive alternatives to guardianship. In Wisconsin, there were more than 38,000 active guardianships in 2015.

The Wisconsin Guardianship Association indicates that guardians are:

- Court-appointed and bound by statute
- An advocate for the ward
- A surrogate decision-maker
- A coordinator of services
- A financial planner

A Guardian is Not...

- A caregiver
- A companion
- A service provider
- A warden
- A reformer
- A savior
- A substitute family

These categories leave out one important area that we hear many people with disabilities need and want, a supporter who has a recognized, formal role to help them make their own decisions.

Due to the seriousness of the loss of individual rights, guardianships are and should be considered only as a “last resort.”

The Arc supports updates to State laws to prioritize less restrictive alternatives to full and partial guardianship, including without limitation informal supports, supported decision-making, limited (and revocable) powers of attorney, health care proxies, trusts, and limited guardianships that are specifically tailored to the individual’s capacities and needs. These alternatives should always be considered first.

Supported Decision Making Facts

- All people use Supported Decision Making (SDM) to make important life decisions for such things as financial decisions, buying a house or car, car repairs, education or choices in medical treatments.
- Supported Decision Making empowers individuals with disabilities who are capable of making decisions to use available supports to make their own choices and live a self-directed, independent life.
- Even if a person with a disability needs extra help to make significant life decisions, their right to make their own choices should not be taken away (such as guardianship) without exploring all options and less-restrictive alternatives.
- Supported Decision Making does not replace more formal substitute decision making legal structures, such as Advanced Health Care Directives, Powers of Attorney, or guardianships.
- Supported Decision Making is one more alternative, another tool in the toolbox, and would be the least restrictive option, enabling people to use their own support systems and family to obtain information and make decisions instead of having someone else make decision for them.
- Supported Decision Making agreements formalize the use of these support structures to obtain and assess information to make decisions.
- Supported Decision Making agreements would be less costly to both the State and the consumer by avoiding expensive court process and unnecessary legal fees.
- Under a Supported Decision-Making agreement the supporter can:
 - Obtain and understand information relevant to his or her decisions.
 - Help the individual understand the options, responsibilities, and consequences of his or her decisions.
 - Communicate decisions to the appropriate people.
 - Assist in, but not make decisions for, the individual that has chosen them for guidance.
- Supported Decision Making legislation has been enacted in Texas and Canada, and is being considered worldwide.

Many guardianships in Wisconsin are instated when a youth with disabilities turns 18, often at the direction of the school to parents as a means to remain involved in the youth’s special education planning. This is unnecessary and problematic because parents are often provided with little information and no alternatives. An 18-year-old youth (with or without disabilities) is rarely a fully mature decision-maker, but should not be stripped of basic rights. A provision of AB 655 that The Arc has strongly advocated for is the final section which would require that schools provide both the youth and parents with information on supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship.

Thank you for considering this important legislation.

To: Representative Jessie Rodriguez, Chair, Assembly Committee on Family Law
Assembly Committee on Family Law

From: Disability Rights Wisconsin, Mitchell Hagopian, Supervising Attorney

Date: January 30, 2018

Re: Testimony in Support of AB 655, supported decision-making agreements

As the Protection & Advocacy system for people with disabilities in Wisconsin, DRW strongly supports AB 655. This bill provides the means by which people with disabilities can formally engage the people they trust to help them make decisions about important issues in their lives.

Unfortunately, it is a sad reality that people with disabilities, particularly intellectual disabilities, are presumed by many in society to be incompetent and presumed to need a guardian. All too often, a young person with a mild cognitive disability gets a date with the probate court for her 18th birthday present. Rather than celebrating the independence that comes with reaching the age of majority, she instead has all of her rights stripped by a court that is not equipped to understand her.

I recently talked to a 17-year-old woman with an autism spectrum disorder and her mother. They had been told by their school district that it was imperative that mom petition for guardianship before her daughter turned 18 or she would lose her right to make decisions for her daughter. There was nothing visibly disabled about this young woman. She was articulate and calm. I asked them if she had ever made any questionable decisions. The only thing either could think of was the purchase of somewhat pricey habitat maze for her pet ferret. Had she made the purchase with someone else's money or credit card? No. Did she have enough of her own money to pay for it? Yes. Where did she get the money? She had gotten a job and earned the money she used to pay for it. Was it a somewhat extravagant purchase? Possibly—in retrospect she thought maybe she should have saved the money for college. If this young woman needs a guardian—we all do.

Yet somehow, because she was in special education, her school counselors assumed that she had to have one.

This bill goes a small, but very important, way, toward preventing the unnecessary imposition of guardianships on people with disabilities. It allows people to formally designate the people they want supporting them. It gives the supporter a seat at the table when decisions are being made and allows the individual to consult with their supporter when they need it. It creates the expectation that the supporter will be allowed to participate, explain, and, when asked by the individual, offer advice about what to consider when making the decision.

From a legal perspective it is important to understand what this bill does NOT do.

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- Most important, it does NOT transfer any decision-making authority to the supporter. The decision-making authority is always retained by the individual.
- It does NOT abrogate HIPPA or other statutes relating to confidential information. An entity in possession of confidential information can still require the individual to sign a release before the entity has to release information to the supporter.
- It does NOT open a door to financial or other abuse. As the P&A we have thought long and hard about this. Because the bill does not transfer any decision-making authority to the supporter, it cannot be used to access funds in bank accounts, apply for credit, engage in contracts or admit someone to a facility. We have consulted with our colleagues at Disability Rights Texas to see if there had been any increase in abuse of people with disabilities there since Texas introduced a sanctioned supported decision-making process. There has not. AB 655 is modeled on the Texas law.

What it DOES do is give the entity that is being approached by the person with a disability and their supporter (bank, school district, landlord, etc.) confidence that this person has taken self-protective measures—by engaging a supporter—and is going to make a decision that will not be questioned later.

DRW believes that guardianship plays a necessary protective role in the lives of vulnerable people with disabilities who lack the competency to make decisions. But guardianship should be the last resort—not the first. Supported decision-making fills a void in the continuum of capacity that starts with complete capacity and ends with guardianship. The bill creates a less restrictive alternative to guardianship that courts may consider before considering guardianship.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this very important legislation, which will allow people with cognitive impairments maintain their liberty and retain their right to make decisions for themselves. It will give them the confidence that the person they choose to help them make decisions will be accepted and respected by the agencies with whom they are negotiating. AB 655 will fill an important gap in our current system while respecting the rights of older adults and people with disabilities the ability to make decisions about their lives.

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January 30, 2018

To: Representative Rodriguez, Chair
Members, Assembly Committee on Family Law

From: Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. & the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network

Re: Support for Supported Decision-Making Agreements Bill – AB 655

Good morning, Chairwoman Rodriguez, Vice Chair Duchow and members of the Committee. I am Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator for the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), one of three Area Agencies on Aging in Wisconsin. I am also here representing the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN), a collaborative group of individuals and associations – including Wisconsin’s three Area Agencies on Aging and other professional associations representing Wisconsin’s senior centers, nutrition directors, aging units and Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), Benefit Specialists, Adult Day Services, the Alzheimer’s Association and the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA). This network of older adults and professionals work with and for Wisconsin’s older adults to shape public policy that improves the quality of life of older people throughout the state.

I am speaking today in support of AB 655 relating to supported decision-making agreements.

Our ability and capacity to make decisions changes over time. For some those changes are due to maturity, for others the changes may be due to functional impairments resulting from illness, injury, or conditions in which change may occur through the rehabilitation processes or progressive conditions. The Supported Decision-Making Agreements bill provides a legally recognized option for older adults and people with disabilities to remain fully in charge of making some or all of their own life-decisions by creating agreements that can easily be put into place in response to their changing needs. These agreements with a trusted “Supporter” (of their choosing) allow individuals to receive any needed assistance with the decision-making process such as gathering information, understanding available options, and/or communicating their decisions. These agreements are flexible and as needs and circumstances change, so can the type and amount of agreements an individual chooses to have. Supported decision-making agreements not only offer individuals the assistance they are seeking with the decision-making process, they also offer clear communication to others (family and friends, business representatives, providers, etc.) exactly what the role of each designated “supporter” is. No one wants to feel like they are being a burden to others. For those wanting support in many areas of decision-making, these agreements create an opportunity, if desired, to choose multiple “supporters” to provide assistance. Use of multiple “supporters” can lighten the responsibilities of any one “supporter” and create an opportunity to select supporters based upon their expertise in particular areas. Older adults in the early stages of Alzheimer’s disease or related dementias, as well as those with acute or chronic health

conditions impacting their ability to function fully, can all benefit from this additional option to help them live a self-determined life.

Supported decision-making agreements do not replace Wisconsin's existing guardianship system. For some, these agreements may be all that is ever needed; for others, they can be used in combination with other legal arrangements such as limited guardianship or Power-of-Attorney.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of the Supported Decision-Making Agreements bill (AB 655). I am happy to respond to any questions that you may have.

Contact:

Janet Zander, GWAAR,
Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator
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Re: AB 655 Supported Decision-Making

Good Morning Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment in support of AB 655 Supported Decision-Making can help a lot of people with disabilities and their families.

People with disabilities want the same things as everyone else; a job they enjoy, a comfortable place to live they can take pride in, relationships with people they like, the right to vote, and the ability to do or buy things that they want. But too often, families are advised—often when a child is just 17—to obtain guardianships over people with disabilities, which takes away some or all the person's civil rights to make decisions.

When I turned 18 and was getting things set up as an adult. My mother was advised by the Social Security Administration to become my payee for my SSI (Supplemental Security Income). We let them do it. By doing this I felt like a person that had to wait for my payee to go to the bank and cash my check. Or have my payee give me an allowance like a child. After a few months we went back to the Social Security Administration to get the checks put in my name and open a checking account in my name. This is one example in my life where we need to have a choice other than guardianship.

No one makes perfect decisions, certainly not at age 18. But that is exactly the age where many youth with disabilities decision-making capacity is evaluated, and once a guardianship is granted it is rarely changed. People with disabilities can acquire new skills and decision-making capacity throughout their lives. Yet, guardianship is used first and almost exclusively when it should be used last and rarely.

As Vice President of People First Wisconsin, our board hears at our state meetings how restrictive guardianships are for our members. We have had a few of our members get their guardianship removed. One of the biggest rights that they get back is the right to vote and are using the Supported Decision Making tool.

Even though under the law people are presumed to be competent to make their own decisions, however often the first questions a person with a disability is asked by service providers and others is "who is your guardian?" They see the disability, not the person, and automatically assume that someone else—a guardian—makes decisions for them.

People with disabilities can make their own decisions, but they may want support. Not someone to make decisions for them, but to help them understand their options, get information, or communicate their decisions to others.

Did you know that being able to make your own decisions leads to a higher quality of life? Studies show that people with disabilities who have more control of their lives and are more self-determined are:

- healthier
- more independent
- more likely to be employed at a higher-paying job
- better able to avoid and resist abuse

Supported Decision Making provides support as people make decisions and facilitates greater independence. AB 655 gives families and people with disabilities a new option that lets the person with a disability retain their rights to make their own decisions and choose who they want to help them (a Supporter) and the types of decisions they want help with. This bill will benefit many people and their families.

Thank you

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WISCONSIN BOARD FOR PEOPLE
WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

January 30, 2018

Assembly Family Law Committee
Representative Rodriguez, Chair
State Capitol, Room 204 North
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Rodriguez and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment in support of AB 655, which formally recognizes supported decision-making (SDM) as a legal option that people with disabilities and older adults can use to retain their rights to make their own decisions, select who they want to help them (a Supporter) and the types of decisions they want help with, and define what assistance a Supporter can give (information gathering, access to records, helping the Person understand options, and communicating the Person's decisions to others). SDM can be used for any decisions the Person feels they need additional support—such as housing, health care, financial affairs, employment, or other areas the Person identifies.

The Wisconsin Board for People with Disabilities (BPDD) strongly supports AB 655 and believes that the addition of SDM as a legal alternative to guardianship will benefit many people with developmental disabilities, their families, and ultimately the state. Our board considers SDM to be so important to furthering people's independence and ability to make choices about their lives that it is one of two public policy issues emphasized in our federally required five-year state plan.

SDM is a fundamental part of Self-determination. People with greater self-determination are: healthier, more independent, more well-adjusted, and better able to recognize and resist abuse (safer)¹.

Nationally, disability organizations, attorneys, courts, and state legislatures are recognizing the value of SDM as an alternative to guardianship. SDM has been endorsed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Community Living, which funds the National Resource Center for Supported Decision-Making, and has gained international recognition, notably in the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

The American Bar Association adopted a Resolution August 14, 2017 encouraging the use of Supported Decision Making as an alternative to guardianship, and specifically urged states to revise their statutes to include supported decision-making as a legally recognized option. Texas and Delaware have already enacted supported decision-making legislation, with legislation pending in Tennessee. Indiana, Maine, and North Carolina are also exploring Supported Decision-Making legislation.

¹Wehmeyer, Palmer, Rifenbark, & Little 2014; Powers et al., 2012; Khemka, Hickson & Reynolds 2005; Wehmeyer & Palmer, 2003; Shogren, Wehmeyer & Shwartz, 1997 & 1998; Wehmeyer, Kelchner, & Reynolds 1996

Under Wisconsin law, all adults are considered to have the capacity for decision-making. But too often, families of people with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) are advised—often when a child is just 17—to obtain guardianships, which takes away some or more commonly all of the person’s civil rights to make decisions about their lives. No one makes perfect decisions, certainly not at age 17-18. But that is exactly the age where many youths with disabilities’ decision-making capacity is evaluated, and once a guardianship is granted it is rarely changed.

People with disabilities can acquire new skills and decision-making capacity throughout their lives. Everyone, no matter their limitations, needs opportunity, experience, and support in order to learn how to make well-informed decisions. SDM can provide support as the person practices making decisions, and SDM agreements can be updated easily as the Person’s ability and capacity to make decisions changes over time.

Unfortunately, guardianship is used first and almost exclusively for people with I/DD when it should be used last and rarely. Parents routinely tell us that guardianship is presented as the only option, and is portrayed as administrative process rather than a decision that has permanent legal ramifications for both the individual and families.

BPDD focus groups on SDM found that many parents were unaware of the role and responsibilities of a guardian, did not feel their children were legally incompetent, but also felt that guardianship was expected and were unaware of alternatives. Our focus groups also found that if SDM was an option many families would have tried it first, and that it would have helped them evaluate whether a guardianship was needed.

Formally establishing SDM agreements as a legal expression of an individual’s wishes gives Professionals a document they can rely on and establishes a legal framework for Supporters to document their role in helping the Person to others (bankers, state agencies, other professionals, etc.). Even though under the law people are presumed to be competent to make their own decisions, often the first question a person with a disability is asked by service providers and others is “who is your guardian?” They see the disability, not the person, and automatically assume that someone else—a guardian—makes decisions for them.

Formalizing SDM within Wisconsin’s statutes provides a needed continuum between no support and full guardianship. AB 655 will result in greater independence, self-determination, and community inclusion for people with I/DD, and we urge the committee to advance this bill to the full Senate.

BPDD is charged under the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act with advocacy, capacity building, and systems change to improve self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life for people with developmental disabilities.

Our role is to seek continuous improvement across all systems—education, transportation, health care, employment, etc.—that touch the lives of people with disabilities. Our work requires us to have a long-term vision of public policy that not only sees current systems as they are, but how these systems could be made better for current and future generations of people with disabilities.

Thank you for your consideration,



Beth Swedeen, Executive Director, Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities



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Testimony
Assembly Committee on Family Law
Helen Marks Dicks
January 30, 2018

Good Afternoon. My name is Helen Marks Dicks and I am the State Issues Advocacy Director for AARP Wisconsin.

AARP Wisconsin has over 840,000 members over the age of 50 in Wisconsin. AARP looks at the impact of legislation on the 50+ population. We are supporting five of the bills on today's agenda: mainly those concerned with caregivers and others who support people aging at home in Wisconsin. We do so because AARP Wisconsin has a strong interest in supporting Wisconsin's 578,000 unpaid family caregivers. They are Wisconsin's unsung heroes that make it possible for so many people to remain in their homes until the end of life. Some of these caregivers also serve both as official decision makers such as guardians and sometimes they assist their family members in making the decisions of daily life that can become overwhelming as we age.

The bill I would like to address is the AB 655 creating supported decision agreements. You will hear testimony today from representatives in the advocacy community for people with disabilities and from people with disabilities themselves. Susan Fadness, one of our AARP Advocates from Madison, who was herself a caregiver and worked as a hospital social worker doing discharge planning, will be sharing her story and perspective.

I agree with the assertion that these supported decision making agreements can be used to assist people in learning to make decisions for themselves. But for the aging populations, these agreements serve an additional purpose. One of the challenges of aging is admitting that you need assistance in areas that you used to handle yourself without support or even without input from others. Now, some days you might need the help and some days not. With the growing complexity of the world at a time when our capacities may be dimming, this bill not only gives us older people a way to request support but also gives us a vehicle to acknowledge the need for help and start the discussion with family and friends. It normalizes the request to our family and friends to go with us and help us when decisions become complex or a painful reminder of our limitations.

We urge you to advance AB 655 creating supportive decision making agreements. Such agreements would be helpful for many people.

If you have questions about this or any other legislative position taken by AARP Wisconsin, please feel free to contact me at 608-286-6337 or by email at hmdicks@aarp.org

Testimony
Assembly Committee on Family Law
AB 655
January 30, 2018

Hello. My name is Susan Fadness. Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I request the committee's support for AB 655 Supported Decision Making. I serve as one of the volunteer advocates for AARP Wisconsin. Today I wish to comment on AB655 creating Supported Decision Making Agreements.

I am a retired medical social worker who worked for the last 18 years of my career at UW Hospital and Clinics, assisting patients and families with discharges from the hospital. For over 10 years I also provided care and support for my mother, a retired school teacher, until she passed away at age 92.

As a hospital social worker, I often saw patients who due to illness had variable levels of ability to understand and carry out tasks. Having the option to designate a trusted "Supporter" who can gather information directly from providers and help sort through the information would have enabled patients to feel heard, understood and in control. Guardianship was often not needed, but patients routinely needed some assistance depending on the exacerbation and remission of the illness process. The need for and type of assistance also waxed and waned with the illness.

With my own mother there were times when she needed me to assist her in understanding and making decisions. She did not need her Health Care POA activated, but sometimes due to her current level of functioning, she needed some added assistance and support.

The Supported Decision-Making Agreements bill would have filled the needs my mother had as well as the many needs of the patients I assisted. Assembly bill 655 will assist many people in a simple and effective manner by allowing the flexibility needed to respond to changing conditions while respecting the patients' wishes.

Thank you for your time and attention.

January 30, 2018

WI Assembly 655: Supported Decision-Making

I am the parent of an amazing 22 year old woman with Down syndrome. We have full guardianship of her. She is not legally able to make decisions regarding her medical care or her financial affairs. She is not able to sign a lease for an apartment or a contract for cell and internet service. She's legally not her own person...she's our person, our ward and we have total control of every aspect of her life.

I have come here today to ask you to please vote YES for this bill. Every person with functional impairments should have the ability and the human dignity to be recognized as a legal "person". They should have the right to make decisions about their life regardless if they need help to do so, even if that help is significant.

Currently, full guardianship is the only workable option for many people who struggle with or who are not fully capable of making decisions for themselves. Unfortunately, the price they pay for needing help is full and complete abdication of control over every aspect of their lives! Full guardianship, although possibly necessary under some circumstances, is just too high a price to pay for needing help!

Supported decision-making with additional powers-of-attorney, where necessary, provide an option for people with functional impairments to maintain their "personhood" and to have the ability to live self-determined lives. This bill, if passed, will fundamentally change the way people with functional impairments inhabit the world! For one, they will actually be able to be "people"; people who prefer one thing over another (even if their parents or siblings don't!); people who need to be asked, not overlooked while a parent or guardian decides what's best; people who the world actually sees as people!

And again, I ask you to please vote "yes" for supported decision-making!

Julie Burish
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