

Thank you Health committee for letting me speak.

My name is Anne Gerhardt. I'm 24 and I live in Cincinnati. I'm a good friend, a hard worker. I work at Kroger and have worked there for more than 5 years. I'm a good sister. I swim. I'm a writer, a poet, an artist and I have a really good sense of humor. I'm fun to be around. I also have Down syndrome.

Down syndrome is not the most important thing about me.

Words matter.

So don't start talking about me or other people with disabilities by starting with their disability. **Start with the person.**

Use the right words when you talk about people with disabilities. **And we will tell you what those words are.**

Listen to us.

And do what's right.

Let's support House bill 281

Thank you.