

My name is Chloe Rothschild. I am 31 years old and I live in Sylvania, OH. I have Autism. I am commenting on SB 213. I am my own guardian. Supported decision making is a framework where a person with a developmental disability can be assisted making decisions. Supported decision making promotes self determination, gives individuals more control over their own lives, and respects autonomy. Right now at least 15 states and the District of Columbia have supported decision making laws. Supported decision making is important to me. I rely on my family and support staff to help me make decisions regarding my life including my medical, financial decisions and so many others. I want to be a part of making these decisions; it's my life after all! I know that I can't always make the decision alone, but with support I can. My family and I have been using supported decision making since I was 18 years old.

Guardianship is a very restrictive method that is often used for people with developmental disabilities. I feel that Supported Decision making could be an alternative to some of these individuals.

Ohio doesn't recognize supported decision making legally. I am over 18, so technically I am supposed to make all of these decisions and be financially responsible, but I still need support. There are some decisions that I am capable of making on my own such as what clothes I wear, what I want to eat for lunch, what I want to watch on TV, etc. There are other decisions that I need support in making such as: where and who I want to live with, money management, healthcare decisions such as which doctor I should see, if a procedure or treatment needs to be done etc. When my family helps me make decisions they think about my health and safety, and what is in my best interest. They help me think about these questions in a way that I can understand and answer. Often abstract decisions can be hard for me. Supported decision making allows me to make the decisions that I can make independently, it also allows me to ask the people I trust to help support me in making other decisions. For example, in 2017 I had eye muscle surgery. This was not a decision that I could make alone. My mom supported me in deciding that this surgery would be beneficial for me. I have autism which means that change can be hard for me; even when it can be necessary. One time I was seeing a therapist and it was no longer proving to be helpful for me; my mom helped support me in making the decision that it was time to find a new therapist. These are just a few examples of how supported decision making has been helpful in my own life. This law being passed would mean: ----- . (I need help here please).