

SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING

S.2848 (Sen. Joan Lovely) & H.4725 (Rep. Paul Tucker)

STATUS: Senate & House Ways and Means Committees



"I was diagnosed with cancer during the pandemic. My supported-decision making team proved essential in helping me make my own decisions. Fighting cancer has been one of the hardest journeys of my life. But **I was able to let my body and voice guide me**, with support from my parents and others."

Jonathan Gardner
19-year-old Autism Self-Advocate

WHY NOW:

- ✓ **BEYOND GUARDIANSHIP** - Less restrictive alternative where people choose trusted supporters to help with making decisions (guardianship remains available to those who need it.)
- ✓ **BROADLY SUPPORTED** - Legislation endorsed by broad-based coalition of leading-disability and older adult advocates, providers, and families.
- ✓ **NATIONALLY EMBRACED** - Supported decision-making laws have been enacted in **15** other states and it is promoted by national leading organizations (e.g. American Bar Association, National Guardianship Association). **** NY just passed law ****
- ✓ **PROVEN TRACK RECORD** - Supported decision-making has been successfully piloted in Massachusetts since 2014
- ✓ **SAVES MONEY** - Will save money by reducing unnecessary guardianships
- ✓ **READY TO GO** - Already vetted by all key stakeholders, including the courts

