Senator Robyn Kennedy, Chair September 9, 2025

Representative Jay Livingstone, Chair

Senator Liz Miranda, Vice Chair

Representative Judith Garcia, Vice Chair

Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities

Massachusetts State House

Boston, MA 02133

**Re: H.261/S.155 An Act relative to authorizing supported decision-making agreements for certain adults with disabilities**

To the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities,

My name is Alana Russo. I’m a young disabled women in my Forties. I live on my own In Bedford MA. I have Cerebral Palsy, a significant hearing impairment in both ears and a learning disability along with Complex Medical conditions.

I am a member of the MDDC. Today I’m testifying about [***H.261***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H261)***/***[***S.155***](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S155)***– An Act relative to supported decision-making agreements for certain adults.***

In June 2024, I found myself in the ER at Lahey Clinic Medical Center in Burlington with blood clots in both of my lungs.

The Emergency doctor on call asked me if I do Supported Decision-Making - I said yes!! The doctor listened to the concerns I had about my condition and about the care I would be receiving and shared all of it with my Supported Decision-Making team. With all of us in the loop the medical team understood my medical history and needs in a way that I would have had difficulty explaining myself. I was put in a step-down unit and in four days was out of the hospital and on my way to full health because of the amazing care I received.

And I felt HEARD every step of the way! I was so happy when that ER doctor asked me if I do Supported Decision-Making.

My voice matters and this time around it worked! So, I would like to close by saying that the medical community is aware of and already implementing and embracing Supported Decision-Making and this is why this bill needs to be passed and become law! It’s vital for people like myself!

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Alana Russo