



Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress

TO: Members of 'Workability' Subcommittee (Committee on Children, Families & Persons with Disabilities)
FROM: Molly Adams, MDSC Self Advocate Advisory Council member
RE: Public Hearing on Workforce Development for Persons with Disabilities
DATE: October 22, 2019

Good morning. I am Molly Adams. My friend John already mentioned the MDSC Self Advocate Advisory Council. I am part of the same group. And I represent thousands of people with Down syndrome and their families.

I am here to talk to you, the Committee, about my work experiences. Right now, I work at Walgreens. I worked for a long time at McDonalds. I had help from an agency to get both jobs. At both jobs, I have had good work experiences.

At Walgreens, I had to study hard with index cards to learn everything. Now, I am super independent and I love my job. I am a very hard worker and am always on time. My co-workers treat me with respect. I like my boss. And I get paid every two weeks!

I have had many successes along the way. I met new friends. I can lift boxes on my own. I can use the conveyor belt on my own. I am honest

But I have also had many challenges. I had trouble figuring out where things go with the Telzon. I don't know how to answer questions about sales. I have trouble understanding when people speak different languages

People like me really benefit from job supports such as funding for job coaches, transportation, and job training. And it's so important for us to have jobs in the community. Please do everything possible to help more people like me get meaningful jobs.

Like John said, people with Down syndrome should be able to go to college if they want. We at the MDSC are advocating for the higher education bill - House Bill 1219 and Senate Bill 756, so that more people with intellectual disabilities can attend



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college. Please support this important bill. If it is passed, it will mean more employment opportunities for people like me.

I have many more hopes and dreams for the future too. I want to get married someday and have my very own pet.

Thank you for hearing my testimony today.

Sincerely,
Molly Adams

P.S. For further comment, you can reach MDSC Communications Director at 781-221-0024 x202 or jkomyerov@mdsc.org.