

March 14, 2018

Dear Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Lauren Traceski and I live in Canton Connecticut. I am 25 years old and I was born with an intellectual disability. Today I am asking you to support people like me by doing 3 things..

1. Vote **YES** on SB296

Just like all of you, I want to live as independently as I can. I am looking forward to the day when I can move into my own apartment with some support from the Arc of the Farmington Valley. I want to have lots of friends, some who have disabilities and some who are not disabled. I want to be an active part of my community. I want to work hard. I want to chase all of my dreams. I want to make a difference in other people's lives.

This Bill will allow us to create new and more affordable places for people like me to live. It will allow us to use technology to create different ways of living for to meet people's needs. It will allow us to live in mixed communities. It will allow us all live in ways that let us achieve our personal best.

2. Vote **NO** on SB463

I have visited a lot of nursing homes in my life and I would never want to live in a nursing home! No one ever wants to be in a nursing home. This Bill will only create places to hide people like me away. It makes me very sad to think that people with ID/D could be shut out of their communities. Please don't let that happen.

3. Vote **YES** on SB400

I was very lucky when I turned 21 to have funding for job supports. Now I work every day at Michaels Arts and Crafts every day. I am learning to advocate for people with disabilities. All graduates need the funding support to give them a chance to work. To keep growing and learning. To give back to the communities that help them.

Please vote **Yes on SB296 and SB400.**

Please vote **NO on SB463.**

Thank you for listening to me today.

Lauren Traceski
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