

## Testimony 2021

Hello my name is Nick Sinacori and I am 26 years old and have autism, and am intellectually disabled.

Those are my medical diagnosis. That is not who I am. I am a valuable person that contributes to society, and to my family and friends lives.

I am a sports enthusiast, music lover, special Olympic athlete, Global Messenger, son, brother, friend and employee.

I have been very fortunate to have held 5 paying jobs and one very awesome internship at the state capital. Yes 6 jobs. 6 organizations and people gave me an opportunity to work on my employment skills and have meaningful employment.

For the past two years I have worked at Beanz and co. An inclusive coffee shop in Avon Ct. I am so excited that I get to go to work at such a great place every day. It gives me such a sense of belonging and of course I love the paycheck! I feel good to go to work and make other people happy. Our customers have become friends. I enjoy being a part of a place that just makes you feel good.

Before Beanz I was able to be an intern with my state Representative John Hampton. I learned so much about being part of a team and navigating a very large workplace. I worked on my conversation skills and direction following as well as my computer skills. John and his Legislative assistant Jason, were great teachers. I got to help out in so many ways here. I got to know the building pretty well too.

Now I use those skills as I interact with customers and as a part of the Beanz team. I am being challenged every day to learn new skills, and become an independent thinker and employee. The support and patience that the staff have given me has allowed me to succeed.

I have been very lucky to have had the opportunities to have meaningful employment.

If I didn't I would be sitting around the house all day playing video games. That would get old pretty fast.

Everyone deserves to work and feel valued.

I have been very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to show what a great employee I am.

Thank you for listening and please remember my story of success when you are considering bills that promote meaningful employment for all.

