Jordan Anderson (Auburndale WI)—School to Guardianship Pipeline

Hi, my name is Jordan Anderson and I wanted to share my story and my hopes for the future. I'm 18 years old and I live in Auburndale WI. I have Cerebral Palsy and use a power wheelchair. My twin brother is a little more mobile than I am and uses crutches. I graduated from high school and I'm starting to really look at what I want to do with my future. School has always been something I've enjoyed because I love learning especially government and journalism classes. I've always had a passion for politics and current events and I think it's because I live in a small town so there is always someone to stop and talk to.

Last year I was able to attend the Self-Determination conference for the first time since it was available virtually. I had so much fun getting to know people in the hang out sessions, but I also learned a lot. One of the sessions I went to was about Supported Decision-Making and alternatives to guardianship, and it blew me away how much I didn't know. As it turned out, my court date for guardianship was shortly after the conference and because of what I learned I was able to talk to my parents about my concerns and they listen to me and dropped the guardianship. I now have a power of attorney for Health Care and for Finances and I was able retain my right to vote which is so important for me and all people.

I'm thankful that my parents listened to me- we were literally hours away from the court hearing. They did not know about Supported Decision-Making and had to learn quickly- before the hearing. But no one told them about Alternative to Guardianship. Everyone just kept pushing Guardianship.