

## COMMUNITY INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT

People with disabilities deserve to be included in their communities. This requires services, support, understanding, and acceptance. It is important that there are meaningful supports in communities, to make sure that people feel included and empowered.

### SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING (H261/S155)

- Supported decision-making (SDM) allows adults with disabilities and older adults to make important life decisions with support from one or more trusted individuals.
- SDM is an alternative to guardianship—it would not replace guardianship for those who need that level of support.

### BLUE ENVELOPE (H3655/S2348)

- This bill aims to create more understanding between police officers and drivers or passengers with disabilities.
- The bill would allow drivers or vehicle passengers with autism to ask for a blue envelope with essential information in case of a traffic stop.

### POLICE TRAINING (H2686/S1741)

- This bill calls for training police officers on how to interact with people with disabilities.
- The bill also provides guidelines for police responses to people with IDD who are victims or witnesses of crimes.

### UNIVERSAL CHANGING TABLES (H256/S102)

- This bill would give people with disabilities a safe, private, and hygienic space to get assistance using the restroom.
- This bill would apply to most public buildings.

### ARCHAIC LANGUAGE LEGISLATION (H232/S137)

- This bill would get rid of offensive words like the “r-word” and “handicapped” in MA state laws.
- These offensive words are used to discriminate against people with disabilities.
- These offensive words would be replaced with phrases such as “person with an intellectual and developmental disability.”