

My name is **Jessie Smart**. I am 37 years old and live in Olive Branch, Mississippi. I work two jobs. I am employed at The Arc of Northwest Mississippi and also work as a bookkeeper for a local landscape company.

I am proud to be an active advocate and leader. I serve on the **National Down Syndrome Congress Policy & Advocacy Council** and the **NDSC Self-Advocate Council**, and I am a member of the **National Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition (NDAC)**.

In 2024, I was honored to receive a gubernatorial appointment to the **Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities**, where I am serving a four-year term. I also serve a four-year term on the **Microsoft Advisory Committee**, working to help ensure that artificial intelligence technology is accessible to people with disabilities.



Today, I am asking you to support the **Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act (TCIEA), S. 2438 / H.R. 4771**. I work two jobs and earn fair wages. I love being able to work and earn a paycheck. However, I have friends with disabilities who are still being paid less than minimum wage for their work. **I do not think that is fair.**

People with Down syndrome should have the opportunity to work alongside people with and without disabilities, earn fair wages, and be included in their communities. Passing the TCIEA will help expand employment opportunities and strengthen the supports people with disabilities need to succeed.

It is a privilege to advocate alongside and on behalf of people with Down syndrome. I take my role seriously because **people with Down syndrome have important things to say. We know what we need.**

Will you support the TCIEA and help ensure that people with disabilities have the opportunity to earn fair wages and work in their communities?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jessica Smart
Street Address
City, State, Zip Code
Phone
Email