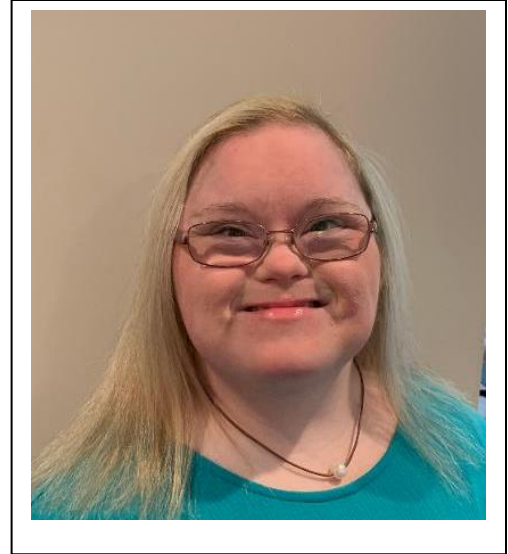


March 2024

My name is Jessica Smart. I am 34 years old and live in Olive Branch, MS. I graduated from Lewisburg High School with an Occupational diploma and attended two semesters at Northwest Mississippi Junior College. I am presently employed as a bookkeeper for a local Landscape Company. I prepare monthly invoices, receive customer payments, and reconcile monthly bank statements. I am completing my third Lay Servant Training class, and I hope to someday serve in the ministry. I enjoy using my actions and my voice to advocate for those with disabilities.



I worked with a group of local and state representatives from Mississippi to rewrite the language for the ABLE Act bill and was with Mississippi Governor Bryant as he signed the bill. I have served on the Board of Directors for DSAM, National Down Syndrome Congress, and I am presently on the board for the ARC of NW Mississippi.

Would you please support House Bill 315? This bill would replace the word mentally retarded (the R-word) with intellectual disability in all Mississippi Statutes. As a person with Down syndrome, I feel it is inappropriate to use the R-word to refer to people with disabilities. It embarrasses me when people use this language.

If you have questions, my contact information is below.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jessica Smart
Address
City, State Zip Code
Phone
Email