

Katie Joe Andalco
82 Fellsway W unit #1
Somerville, MA 02145
kjmarkman@gmail.com
856-332-7416

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Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities
93 Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Adrienne,

My name is Katie Joe Andalco and I'm writing to express my strong interest in serving on the Somerville Commission for Persons with Disabilities. As a mother to disabled son, a case manager with experience in the HIV and rare disease communities as well as a public health profession with a master's in public health focused on health equity and racial justice, I am deeply committed to advancing accessibility, inclusion and equitable policies for all disabled residents in city.

My lived experience parenting a child with physical and intellectual disabilities has given me a firsthand understanding of the barriers families face when navigating healthcare, education, community resources and public spaces. It has also shown me the importance of centering disabled voices and recognizing the diverse cultural, racial and socioeconomic factors that shape each family's experience. This perspective motivates me to advocate for holistic, inclusive and just solutions.

Professionally, my work as a case manager allowed me to support individuals and families confronting complex systems and unmet needs. Through this work, I have developed strong skills in resource coordination, systems navigation, crisis support, and policy advocacy. I have seen first-hand how gaps in these systems and services disproportionately affect marginalized communities, further underscoring the need for equity-focused approaches.

My master's in public health, grounded in health equity and racial justice, has equipped me with the tools to analyze policy, engage diverse communities, interpret data through an equity lens, and work towards structural change. I believe disability justice and racial justice are deeply interconnected and I'm committed to bringing that integrated perspective to the Commission's work.

I would be honored to have the opportunity to contribute my lived experience, professional background, and public health training to help strengthen our city's efforts to create truly accessible environments and responsive systems. I'm eager to collaborate with fellow members, community partners and city leadership to identify gaps, elevate community voices and advance policies that improve the quality of life for disabled residents and their families. Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,
Katie Joe Andalco