

My name is Dan Dotson and my son Derek is a 34-year-old man with Asperger's.

Derek has been working at Walgreens for the past 8 years.

This has been good for Derek because it gives him some structure in his week and they work with him on his schedule.

The managers at Walgreens allow Derek to come in and only work for an hour or two since that is all that his attention span can handle.

If Derek were to have to work longer shifts than that, he probably wouldn't be able to keep that job.

The staff at Walgreens also works with Derek on what his assigned tasks are. They have him putting away inventory and stocking shelves. They do not make him operate the cash register.

With his anxiety, this is not something that he would be successful at.

Providing Derek with a modified schedule and a modified task list has helped him keep this job for the past 8 years.

Employers need to be motivated to think this way. Not every employer would do what Walgreens has done.

I think that, with an incentive, more employers would provide these accommodations to people that qualify.

I support HB2219 because it supports our son and the thousands of people like him.