

March 3, 2025 – DECA Field Trip Incident: Sensory Harm and Pre-Coordinated Coverage

On March 3, 2025, I served as a supervisor at the Connecticut DECA State Championships, an event I was participating in for the first time and was not fully briefed on in advance. From 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, I performed all assigned duties and supervised students accordingly.

At the start of the day, I had a clear verbal agreement with my colleague, A.C., that I would temporarily cover for Ms. Pamela Garrett, and that A.C. would remain stationed with the students throughout the day. Our students were seated at one full table assigned to our school, with an additional table shared with another school. Each table was supervised by staff members from the respective schools.

From 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, I needed to step away from our assigned table because of excessive loudspeaker volume placed directly next to our seating area, which caused physical pain and sensory discomfort due to my documented hearing disability. The environment became medically intolerable, and I relocated within the venue to avoid further auditory distress. The event space consisted of multiple large ballrooms with hundreds of students and adults, and student supervision remained intact under A.C. as planned.

Despite my responsible actions and prior verbal arrangements, this incident was later used to question my conduct, which I believe was rooted in a failure to understand my disability and possibly in retaliation. This situation illustrates the lack of preparation, flexibility, and accommodation support for employees with disabilities — even in high-volume public events.

March 4, 2025 – Follow-Up to DECA Incident and Repeated Accommodation Requests (3rd & 4th Attempts)

On March 4, 2025, I had two separate in-person interactions with Ms. Pamela Garrett regarding the March 3 DECA State Championship event. These marked my third and fourth verbal attempts to clarify my disability and request reasonable accommodations.