



ADAPT FREE OUR PEOPLE!



As we celebrate Mother's Day in Washington, D.C., ADAPT members are taking some time to acknowledge our mothers and the other important women in our lives. ADAPTERs from across the country have brought pictures of these women, who include the women who founded an ADAPT chapter, gave us life, raised us to be the activists we are, supported a disabled family member, or are currently raising the next generation, particularly those mothers who – themselves – have disabilities. We want to publicly thank our ADAPT mothers – past and present – for their contributions to our lives and our movement!

On this important day, we also want to acknowledge that the community integration of people with disabilities and attendant services are not just disability rights issues, they are women's issues. It is generally not recognized that:

- Over 68% of the 1.4 million people in nursing homes in the US are women.
- Nationally 65% of people receiving services and supports are women.
- Over 89% of paid workers in nursing homes and community based services are women, with most Medicaid-funded workers earning at least \$2 less per hour than fast food or gas station workers.
- Nationally over 60% of the 40 million unpaid family caregivers are women, and over 40 million households, one in five, provide unpaid attendant services for friends or family.

Today, even if a woman is not in a nursing facility, being paid to provide long term services and supports, or providing unpaid support, she understands that she will – one day – be one of these women.

On this Mother's Day, the ADAPT Community affirms that every American is guaranteed liberty under the Constitution and that we will demand the government change federal policy so that no mother should fear that she or her children will be denied their freedom and liberty.

At the same time, ADAPT calls on the entire Disability Community to acknowledge the importance of women in our lives and our movement. We also call on policy makers to end the policies that force our mothers, grandmothers, aunts and sisters into unwanted and unwarranted institutionalization. On this Mother's Day, these women deserve more than a card or flowers, they deserve to know that their freedom and liberty are secure.