



ADAPT FREE OUR PEOPLE!



Ivanka,

For over a quarter century, ADAPT and the Disability Community have fought to ensure that no American is forced into unwanted institutionalization. Although politics are partisan, the issues confronting our country are not, and ADAPT has worked with – or held accountable – public officials from both parties. We also have reached out to your father's administration in the hope that he would be able to accomplish something that we were unable to secure under the Obama Administration: ensuring that disabled Americans are not denied their Constitutional rights, including their right to liberty.

Rights guaranteed by the Constitution apply to all Americans, and as recently noted by conservative social and political commentator Ann Coulter, the founders of this nation didn't include an asterisk in that document that exempted or applied Constitutional rights to any specific group. Even so, disabled Americans are routinely forced into nursing facilities and institutions where they are stripped of their personal liberties. They have essentially been deemed "too disabled" to live in their communities, go to school, work, marry, establish a home and bring up children. This is unacceptable and truly un-American.

We know that women's issues are important to you, and the failure to provide adequate community-based long term services and supports for disabled Americans is an important women's issue. On Sunday – Mother's Day – ADAPT highlighted this important intersection. After all, the vast majority of people in nursing facilities, paid attendants, and unpaid or informal caregivers are women.

We hope that you will recognize this important intersection with the Disability Community and help us advance our cause. You can start by publicly acknowledging that the Americans with disabilities are being denied their Constitutional rights to life, liberty and due process when they are forced into nursing facilities and other institutions or denied adequate services and supports in the community, most of which are funded by Medicaid.

You could play a critical role in this issue as the administration's "Ambassador for the Disability Community" by visiting ten model programs for transitioning people with disabilities into the community, convening round-tables in ten states to support them in developing effective systems for truly integrating people with disabilities, and working with ADAPT to advance the Disability Integration Act.

We hope you will work with us to FREE OUR PEOPLE!

The ADAPT Community