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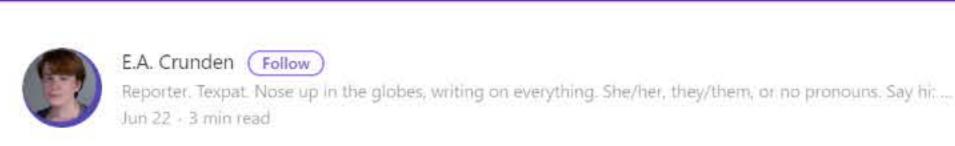
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Wheelchair users dragged away from McConnell's office for protesting health care bill

Dozens of disability rights activists were arrested.



Activists in wheelchairs protesting the Senate's newly-released health care bill were arrested and dragged from outside Senate Majority Leader Mitch

McConnell's office on Thursday. The incident occurred after about 60 members of ADAPT, a U.S. disability rights organization with fierce objections to the American Health Care Act

(AHCA), staged a "die-in" outside of the Kentucky senator's office.

The AHCA would cap and cut Medicaid, something that would have severe repercussions for Americans with disabilities. Many people living with disabilities rely on Medicaid for their basic care and survival. A press release circulated by ADAPT stated that the intent of the protest was to "dramatize

the deaths" the AHCA would cause in this community if implemented.

"To say people will die under this law is not an exaggeration," Mike Oxford, an ADAPT organizer from Kansas, said prior to the protest. "Home and community based services are what allow us to do our jobs, live our lives and raise our families. Without these services many disabled and elderly Americans will die. We won't let that happen."

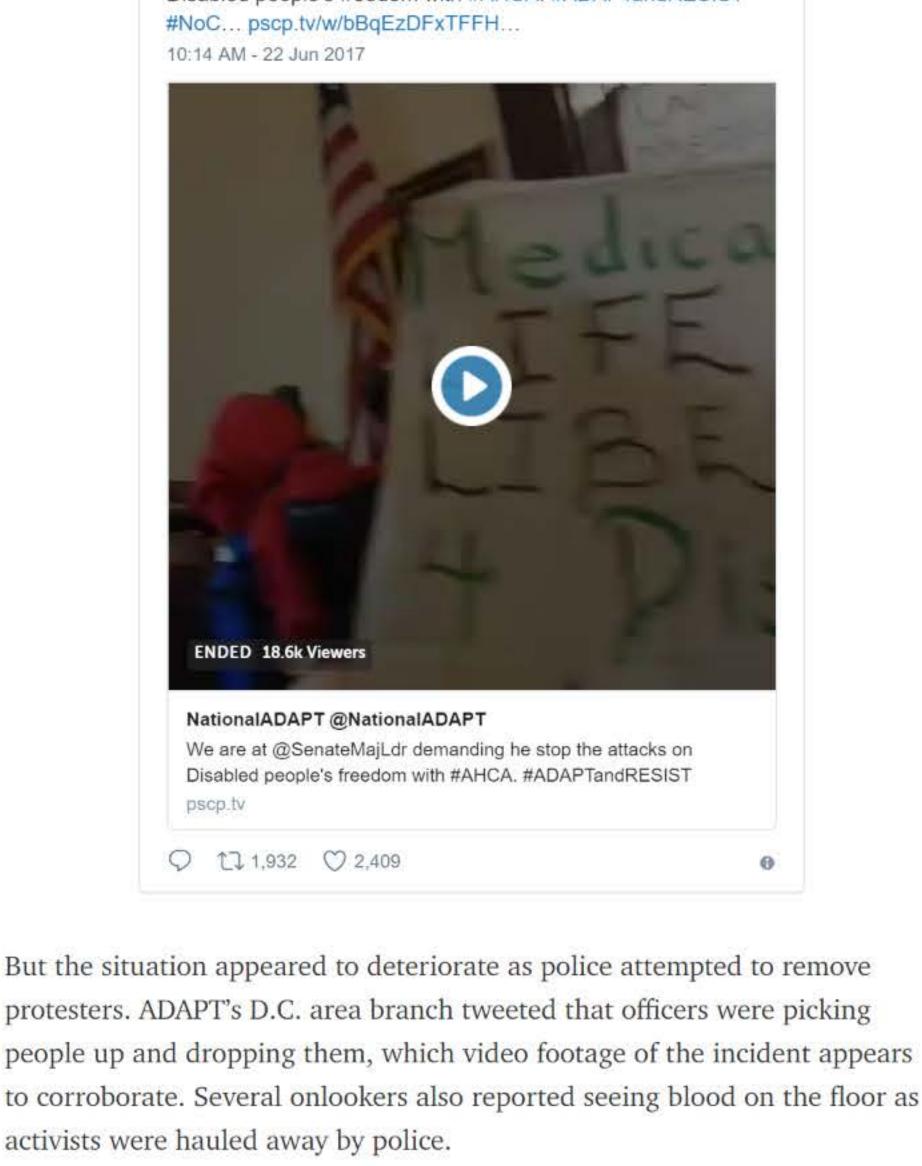
Initially, the demonstration was a relatively peaceful show of dissent, as a

large number of protesters gathered outside of McConnell's office to voice

their anger, with some yelling, "I'd rather go to jail than die without

Medicaid!" (McConnell was not in his office at the time of the protest, as he was introducing the health bill, while arguing it would "strengthen Medicaid.")





picking people up and dropping them. #ADAPTandRESIST #SaveMedicaid 11:01 AM - 22 Jun 2017 Q 17,53 0 20

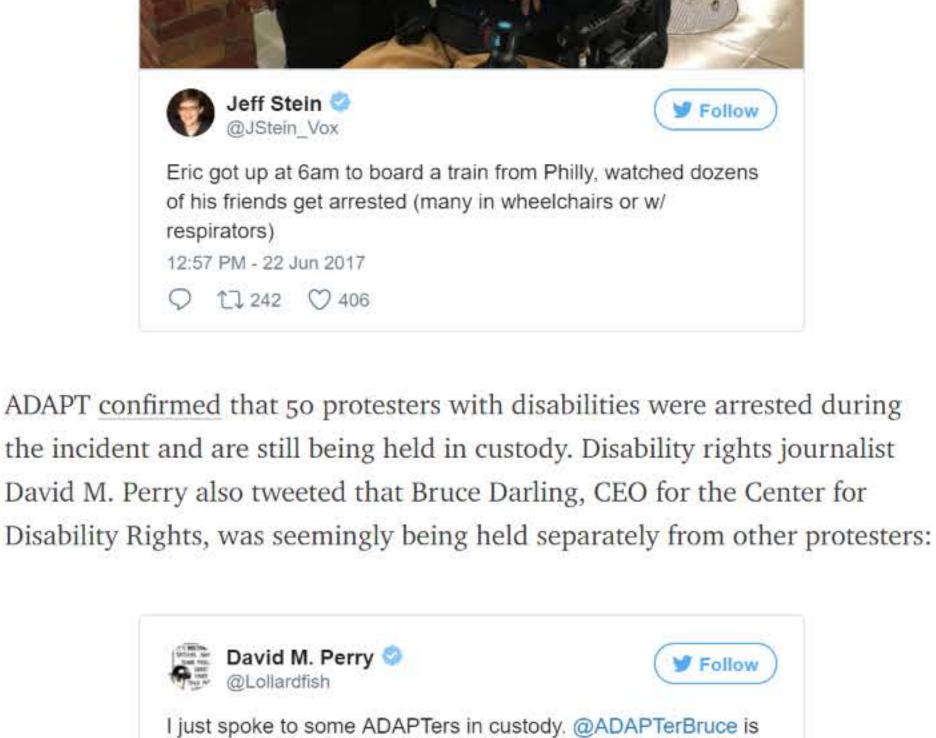
EMTs coming through, we're hearing rumors that police are

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One ADAPT member said that police were responsible for the violent nature of the arrests, but that the organization's demonstration was in keeping with the severity of the threat the AHCA poses to people with disabilities.

"The nature of the arrests were up to the officers," ADAPT member Kings

Floyd told ThinkProgress in an email. "We did not assist the officers in our

arrest nor did we actively resist. The nature of the Trumpcare bill calls for a

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Top highlight

being held separately. No one has seen him since he was

arrested, twitter.com/Lollardfish/st...

1:11 PM - 22 Jun 2017

demonstrators railed against the AHCA.

in the globes, writing on

they/them, or no pronouns.

everything. She/her,

1 23 0 9

nonviolent but passionate demonstration, as our lives are at risk. We know with the proposed cuts to Medicaid people with disabilities will die. This means we will continue to fight for our lives and continue to be arrested as the police deem necessary." ADAPT has long been vocal in its rejection of any proposed cuts to Medicaid. In March, a protest of around 40 people, the majority of them in wheelchairs, shut down the Capitol Rotunda for around an hour while

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