



April 2023

David Egan Advocacy

ADVOCACY IS CALLING

On April 17-19, the National Down Syndrome society is holding an Advocacy conference in partnership with other national Down syndrome organizations, including NDSS Advocacy Partners, the National Down Syndrome Congress, and the Global Down Syndrome Foundation. It is important that we will together advocate for legislative priorities that impact the Down syndrome community.

“Down syndrome is not an obstacle to a life worth living. We all together can change hearts and minds and ensure that we are not ignored in the legislative process that affects the quality of our lives like any other citizen. I strongly believe that self-advocates need to be directly involved in the issues that relate to their lives. I always wanted to speak on behalf of many children and adults with intellectual disabilities. As a young child, I used to enjoy watching C-SPAN and see how congressional members spoke on Capitol Hill. My goal then and now is to promote awareness that we ARE CAPABLE PEOPLE. We need to influence legislation to improve our lives. Those of us with intellectual disabilities want to be directly involved in issues that are about us; we do not want to be hidden from society, we do not want pity. We want to be a part of the community. I often said in my talks : “I want to be the voice that speaks for us and ignites the dreams that belong to all of us. I want to bring unique insights that will enable the legislators to better understand the issues, and foster medical, cognitive, behavior and mental wellness research. We are citizens who matter and we vote.”

Below are the legislative priorities for the 2023 Down Syndrome Advocacy Conference. Learn more about these priorities: .

- Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act
- Transformation to Competitive Integrated Employment Act (S. 533/H.R. 1263)
- Inclusion of the Down Syndrome Community in Alzheimer's Initiatives
- Increased membership on the Congressional Task Force on Down Syndrome
- Increased funding for the INCLUDE project at NIH

<https://ndss.org/down-syndrome-advocacy-conference>



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