So we can get started.
If that's okay, I'm going to start our recording.
And Bernard,
if you'll take care of any folks that come in the waiting room,
I appreciate that you.
You bet.
Thank you.
Well, welcome for homeschool, July 30th.
My name is Colby Caldwell.
I'm the program director here at revolve and I'm the vice principal in
our online initiative. Homeschool.
Tonight,
we're thrilled and honored to be hosting DIY able to presentation of a
celebration of 30 years of the ADA stories of disability.
This will be moderated by DIY DIY abled, founder,
and revolve advisory board member prearranged.
And there'll be more about her coming up.
She wrote this to me.
As we were preparing for tonight and I felt like it would be a good
way to kind of start tonight's proceedings.
July 26 marked marked the 30th anniversary of the ADA.
And as a side note pre and are really excited about having a 30th
anniversary on July 30th, but that's just how we are.
The disability rights movement in the United States was one of the
most powerful civil rights movements. And yet at the same time,
One of the most invisible movements to have occurred.
Disability is the largest minority in the world.
And unlike other minorities, it remains the most invisible minority.
Tonight,
we're going to hear from several folks who will share their stories
about living with disabilities 30 years on from the passage of the
ADA.
We will have a mix of prerecorded videos and some live presentations.
And before I introduce this evening's moderator Priya,
I just have a few housekeeping things to share.
So we will all be kind of on the same page as we are navigating this
First and foremost, I want to say we are thrilled to be able to offer closed captioning for tonight's program. And those of you that would like to use the closed captioning, that there should be a button at the bottom of your screen that gives you the opportunity to use the closed captioning option. And we were able to do this for tonight and all of our program programs in the future because of the generous support of our subscribers and donors. I want to thank Priya, especially for making this a vital element. In our presentations and programming moving forward. Please set your zoom due to speaker view during the muted sections of tonight's discussion when we're showing videos or when folks are speaking about their. Times during this time. And send that to the gallery view when we're opening up for questions or when you want to check and see who's in the room and be able to have a more group type discussion. We'll indicate this as the program progresses. There'll be multiple opportunities tonight at the questions and discussion throughout this presentation. And I'm asking you to drop your questions in the chat and you can push the chat button and open up a little window and you can. I write a chat to me, specifically Colby Caldwell or the entire group, and I'll correlate them. And during logical breaks, I'll read your questions and unmute you. And allow you to follow up for further discussion if needed. This helps keep things kind of a streamlined and kind of helps keep all the noise and feedback from happening. Throughout the night. I'll also be dropping pertinent links throughout the program. So keep an eye out or let me know if you'd like for me to drop them in again. We will be recording tonight's program. And we'll post it on our homeschool library website, where you also can check out a previous homeschool events.
We have over 19 events that we've done since April. So feel free to turn your video on and off as you feel comfortable. We also have several wonderful programs coming up in August, and I'll be happy to share those with you at the end of our program tonight. But finally, before I bring prion to moderate, I'd like to thank our subscribers, like angelic Bruckner and Arthur, Gary. And I want to give a special thanks to Linda and Ron Larson for their long time continued support and especially our friends at photo plus, all these folks make what we do happen. And most importantly, I want to thank all of y'all for participating tonight or presenting tonight and for being a part of the community that we're trying to build here.

Via homeschool.

So I'd like to introduce rearrange now. Who's going to moderate tonight's program. Rearra has been a long time member or the DIY community as a musician and an artist. In 1999, she fell off a skateboard ramp. That was a DIY space for bands. She sustained I teach well L one spinal cord injury. When faced with a decision of what you wanted to do as a person living with disability, she decided she wanted to keep playing music when asked why she chooses to continue to create what she does with the DIY ethic.

She tells people, Because DIY is about community. And when I became disabled, I needed to be a part of this community more than ever. She started a nonprofit called DIY abled to inform people about the civil rights of people living with disabilities. And she is also part of revolves inaugural advisory board, which will have our very first meeting tomorrow, which I'll tell you more about later in the program. But in the meantime, I am super thrilled to turn this program over the PREA. Hey Brandon,
20:13:22 Hey, what's up. Thank you so much.
20:13:31 Colby for like, you know,
20:13:33 letting us be part of a revolve homeschool series.
20:13:37 It's really exciting.
20:13:38 And.
20:13:43 Basically, you know, Colby gave her great introduction,
20:13:47 you know what I had written. So yeah, I,
20:13:48 I just feel throughout history, we all know that.
20:14:00 Disability has been around since life has been around. And,
20:14:03 but history, for some reason,
20:14:05 the narratives don't have disability don't exist as much.
20:14:08 So my goal is for people with disabilities to share their stories,
20:14:12 so it can be recorded. And then in the future world,
20:14:15 There will be a history of disability and hopefully normalize what
20:14:19 disability is.
20:14:23 So our first person is Tybee Flores.
20:14:27 She's a millennial millennial disability, activists.
20:14:30 She runs her own advocacy group called stomping with CP.
20:14:35 And.
20:14:43 She has performed a poem.
20:14:45 And so we made a video of her poem and also some thoughts she had
20:14:50 about how the ADA has cracks that we need to fix.
20:14:53 And she explains the different cracks that exists.
20:14:57 So go for it and show that video.
20:15:15 Colby. I don't hear the audio of that video.
20:15:17 Hi, Leah. You're you're still muted.
20:15:19 Thank you.
20:15:28 Kay here, anything.
20:15:30 Yeah.
20:15:45 Oh, yeah. Sorry, Colby. I was muted. I can't hear the video at all.
20:15:49 So would you mind rewinding it and starting it again?
20:16:05 Okay.
20:16:08 People were not able to hear that. Is that correct?
20:16:10 Right. Yeah.
20:16:11 Right.
20:16:21 Because I think what happens is that I've muted myself and not
20:16:23 actually new. It's the audio from the video as well. So I apologize.
20:16:27 We're going to start over if that's okay.
20:16:29 With.
20:16:30 Yep.
20:16:31 Hey, that's, what's great about this time.
20:16:33 We're all learning and teaching at the same time. So let's.
20:16:35 Okay.
20:16:38 I will not need myself. And.
20:16:42 Priya and Bernard, if you'll give me a thumbs up,
20:16:44 if you can hear this.
20:16:47 Eva.
20:16:52 What must I do for my voice to be heard?
20:16:55 Should I show louder.
20:16:59 Should I tell my chair in front of me, should I do them on my
knees?
20:17:02 Should I cry as I actually.
20:17:04 Why society is the way it is.
20:17:06 As I feel as if I'm.
20:17:10 But by the world around me.
20:17:12 Lack of healthcare.
20:17:13 Everywhere.
20:17:18 Places.
20:17:22 Have gone by and I'm still having to actually so fly.
20:17:27 Century old. Shouldn't have to ask myself why.
20:17:30 But I do in the hopes that it'll get better.
20:17:35 Bye.
20:17:36 My name's Tom Flores.
20:17:41 25 year old with spastic dysplasia.
20:17:48 Great sight.
20:17:49 And I'm also a published author and disability advocate.
20:18:00 Despite the obstacles you face,
20:18:02 you gotta keep on stomping on CP because despite the
obstacles you
20:18:06 face, you must keep on going and sharing your story with the
world.
20:18:09 Write your own story to the best of your ability. That's my
water.
20:18:14 This channel and that's my motto on everything that I write
and
20:18:18 contribute to. So with that being said, you guys.
20:18:23 I'm wanting to talk about something very important to me,
20:18:26 something that's coming up in the next couple of days.
20:18:29 As you know, the ADA,
20:18:31 the Americans disability act was signed.
20:18:33 Years ago by president George H w.
20:18:37 And that is basically the lawn that went in place.
20:18:53 Everyday people from being discriminated against or
mistreated against
20:18:57 just because we have a disability and we have to live in
society
20:19:01 because before the ADA was in place,
20:19:03 we struggled a lot just to get the.
20:19:08 Unnecessary things we needed to survive in life.
20:19:10 Like having handicapped the system will places and ramps and
even
20:19:15 buses, even. I mean, if you guys seen the movie Crip camp,
20:19:18 you guys would know that.
The generation prior to the millennial, struggle a lot to get them to get where we are now, which is great. Congratulations to all of the advocates for. First standing up. What we, what we want and what we believed in, which was equal rights for all. With that being said, I'm going to reflect on what it was like. Growing up as a millennial. Cause I am a millennial. I was born. In 1995. So the law had been passed four years. By the time I was born. And I'm going to school. For. 13 years because I got held back a year. On the third grade and Durham. Going to school with the ADA law. I didn't really see much of an effect. I mean, I constantly had to, my parents constantly. Fight. And for me to get the proper education. Fighting for you to get the proper IEP, because there'll be a lot of times where teachers are going to fall in my final. Fight for me to be on a. On a handicap, the system will bus. Fighting for me to be treated right by teachers and staff members. And the one thing that I remember at the age of seven years old is getting smacked in the face by a school bus driver. In my County, that was the earliest time that I knew that my fight to be a normal student was going to be difficult. Look only that Bush struggle was fired, but that was my earliest memory of like, Being in a society where I was going to be mistreated. Only because I'd have to say. Now the ADA has come a long way. But they're still. Lot of work that needs to be done. And America needs to wake up and realize that this is the reality of it. People with disabilities. Need their voices heard. We need to show people that we live. Normal everyday life, despite our different ability.
20:21:27 Cause I don't like using the word disability.
20:21:29 I don't know about y'all.
20:21:30 But despite our different ability you live our lives.
20:21:36 We deserve to have those stories told,
20:21:38 and maybe we can be the next generation of prep camp.
20:21:43 You know,
20:21:44 we need to be that next generation to fix the broken cracks.
20:21:48 Ugly ABA.
20:21:49 I mean, although we have the AAD in place.
20:21:52 Although it's supposed to mean.
20:21:54 Equality. I don't feel.
20:21:56 Quality when it comes to myself and.
20:21:58 And I'm living in society.
20:22:01 And I'm gonna explain to you guys why in a book.
20:22:09 Why should I have to go through X, Y, and G to get that?
20:22:16 Why should I have to face the fear of.
20:22:24 We'll not be able to really get married in the love of God
and what I
20:22:29 believe in because there's a freaking long.
20:22:32 One place called the marriage penalty law that affects your
social
20:22:35 security. If you get married, I do not wake up.
20:22:37 No, wake up one day as a little girl and say, Oh, I can't
wait.
20:22:42 My mind, my youth and not be able to walk down.
20:22:46 Sign the marriage certificate to say I'm married.
20:22:51 I didn't know.
20:22:53 I've always been the type of person.
20:22:58 At wants a wedding that marriage should do.
20:23:02 I shouldn't have to decide with the love of my life.
20:23:06 You know, I shouldn't have to decide. Okay.
20:23:08 Are we going to get married because we're bench.
20:23:13 Dizzy, and we don't want to lose half our social security
benefits.
20:23:17 Or we're not going to have an income.
20:23:21 That's the fear, but nobody talks about it. Nobody's doing.
20:23:29 So it's up to us. Another thing that doesn't make me feel
equal.
20:23:33 In this society.
20:23:36 Although the ADA has been past 30 years ago.
20:23:47 Why is it that we still have to deal with.
20:23:51 Constant struggle and anxieties of wondering if this place is
handicap.
20:23:56 It says or.
20:23:57 Into a place where we're,
20:23:58 we don't feel comfortable because it isn't a handicap the
And we sit out like a sore thumb. If the Amy was practiced 30 years ago. There really should not have this problem. It should, it should already be. Do people say. And it's to the point where, so time. To me, I get embarrassed. Because I seen. Like a sore thumb, but I shouldn't have to. Because, you know why beside this. Any normal 25 year old girl. You know, I like country music. I like being social. Watching TV playing video games. I like reading books on the book or. But yet. I have to do with the constant struggle. If, if I'm gonna. Hidden dilemma today. Oh, this place has a handicap, the system. Oh, I can't. I can't walk on the sidewalk because there's bushes and it's not assessable. Or the ranch too steep. It's too dangerous. Why should I have to worry about that? But Amy was past 30 years ago. You know, I don't know if you guys could see my whole shirt. But he says some, some scene. Disabilities. I see possibilities. And that's exactly what I see. For America, our nation, our society. If we take the right steps. We strive to be the best that we can be. Voice is heard in society. No matter if it p****s people off or not. Yay. Okay. Thank you. That was Ottavia. Do you want to say, thank you. Say something. Yes, I would just like to say thank you to dya will founder. Pre-agreed. For allowing me to be here and express my passion and share my story with the world. Our friendship means an owner to me, the volume that we've just built with DIA would ever want to hear it. Truly been a blessing to be here today, to share my perspective on the ADA and my frustrations in my
poem.
20:26:35 And it really means a lot to me. And like I said, Oh, a.
20:26:38 Well, the ADA was passed 30 years ago.
20:26:40 There's still a lot of work that needs to be done.
20:26:42 So we have to stomp on the ADA.
20:26:44 Yes.
20:26:45 I agree.
20:26:47 Okay.
20:27:09 It's such a kind soul. He lives he's from the Houston, Texas
area.
20:27:12 You also has cerebral palsy and he made a video for us today
talking
20:27:17 about his experience with disability and a tool that he
thinks needs
20:27:22 to be everywhere at every business in America.
20:27:25 So go for it and play that video.
20:27:27 Hi, my name is Brittany.
20:27:28 I am 32 years old.
20:27:30 [unknown] today for this 88.
20:27:31 30th.
20:27:33 Event. I want to talk about the importance of.
20:27:36 Any.
20:27:38 That pushed,
20:27:40 whether it be doctors on this social security office.
20:27:43 Any.
20:27:46 The importance of having data accessible.
20:27:49 Andy gap.
20:27:50 Door opener.
20:27:51 I went to Doug.
20:27:57 Is near and dear to me.
20:28:02 I do notice that some of the establishments have the.
20:28:07 In the gap. A lot of them do not.
20:28:10 I would like for.
20:28:12 I'll have Leah's dad.
20:28:14 Stablish myths too.
20:28:17 Of them to make it easier.
20:28:21 On the disabled and those that have to gear.
20:28:27 For the industry
20:28:30 I was doing.
20:28:35 And on this particular day.
20:28:37 I had the public.
20:28:41 [unknown] they were busy.
20:28:47 Does day and did not make sure that I get get.
20:28:50 Into the building.
20:28:51 So I'm going to go to work.
Unfortunately. I ended up sitting outside through agenda minutes before. You might as well. Some of you might ask, well, why didn't you just grab your cell phone? Grow them and say, Hey. I'm here. Can you let me in the building please? Hmm. I was living in a group. Disseminate where we were not. I'm loud. Jab. So balloons as residents. So there was no way that I get notified. Anyone. Then I was sitting outside. The building. It would be nice for. Diaz. Stablish mints. To have. Yeah, but. For those that needed. Because we are not, not always. And so on us or someone to go. With us to make sure that we get. Get into the building. As disabled. Wheels. When's it be. Independent as possible. And I think it should be. [unknown] should. Have this. In the gap, it says door opener. Mike back in November of last year. And go to the DMV. To get fine. ID renewed. And my floor. Caregiver. And defined. With the door. And also me to get me inside the building. That's a government establishment. I would have gone. They would have had the. Accessible door opener. But they did not.
So even.
In the 30 years that ADA.
We have ADA has done that.
Great. So we still have it.
Ready to go. And I think that's just.
One of the things.
That would help.
Disabled community is that as long as Deb.
Would have this feature.
It would be much easier on the individual and those that are caring.
for the end of the job. Thank you so much for your time.
And ms. Dean.
One hand to say.
You guys have a great night.
Thank you so much Friday. That was a really wonderful video. And I'm,
I'm pretty sure a lot of people don't think about those accessible.
So that was a great perspective. And thanks for sharing that with us.
The next person up is John would.
John is another millennial activists, disability, activists,
living with spinal bifida.
He is an advocate and also self published author.
And he is actually gonna speak a little bit live about the ADA and how.
it affects him. And then he also made a video.
So we're going to play that video.
So go ahead, John, and talk it up.
Okay.
Although I was.
Three years old.
When I learned about the Americans with disabilities act,
I automatically knew that it was something they.
As a person with a disability.
With the intent of the ADA, it was possible for me.
Did not only go to school.
Sorry, but graduate with the highest GPA in my class,
just a little side note,
I graduated with a 3.8 GPA high as you could get was a four.
It is.
Also though hell.
May become who I am today.
And an advocate.
Had I not learned about the ADA when I did,
I doubt that I would be who I am today.
And before we play with Blair the video, let me just say one thing.
It's a video that I want to very, very hard.
The motto that I will be quoting in this video has helped me over
the last year.
With everything that I've done and the motto is.
Your situation may be hard.
There's always someone like me, but he to lift you up.
Now with that out of the way, let's play this video.
What's up guys.
My name is Joel. Would.
I am a 26 year old author disability advocate, YouTuber and true friend.
I just wanted to take a few minutes to give you a little bit of my
life story.
I was born with the most severe type of spinal bifida and the type is
called Milo men Ninja suit.
Because of this,
I am unable to walk and does rely on a manual wheelchair for mobility.
I have many other health issues stemming from spinal bifida,
such as hydrocephalus or.
Water on the brain.
Scoliosis curvature of the spine, severe pernicious anemia.
I also have kidney.
Bladder issues.
And so many other anomalies.
I was always supposed to live two hours.
But because of my many health issues.
As I always say, I just entered the ring for my 26th.
In the fight against spinal bifida.
And I'm very happy to say.
I'm winning spinal bifida is losing.
Here are a few of my many hobbies that I do.
As I mentioned a minute ago, I am an author. I've written three books.
One is published. I'm a disability advocate.
And I'm a, you tuber.
Those spinal bifida may have robbed me of the ability to walk.
It has not robbed me at the ability to be a true friend to those in
need.
I've been to disability advocates since the age of 18 and many times
throughout my career. I've met folks with similar stories,
but they've had different circumstances that have made them who they
are today.
My life motto is, and always will be. Your situation may be forward, but there's always someone like me ready to lift you up again. People hear this. And even though. They may be going through very different circumstances than I am. I know I can always be the person there to lift their spirits and make their day even better. And to me, that's very comforting to know that I was able to help somebody having a bad day. You can reach out to me. Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and my personal website. I will link those in the. No. So does video. And let me reiterate once more. My mother. Before we end this video. Your situation may be hard. But there's always someone like me ready to lift you up again. Thank you for your time. And God blessed you. Okay, thanks so much, John. That was such a great video. And. You know, obviously we realize John is really smart and because of the ADA, someone like John. Was able to get an education and have that 3.3 0.8, sorry, 3.3 0.8 grade point average. So, you know, the ADA helps educate. Or, you know, protects the rights for disabled people to become educated. So it's, you know, so, you know, John is a great example of a smart, capable man. That just happens to have a disability. So the next person up is calling me. She's actually here live. She did not make a video. She's gonna just. Go for it and talk live Pauline. Victoria. Is. I have, it's probably I, the fortunate she's probably one of the most awesome women that I have the fortunate. Chance of knowing she was born without two arms and one leg.
She has a couple, she does a lot of things. She has a production company called one leg up productions. She does interviews with people with disabilities called chair chats. And she also facilitates this really great group where a lot of people are from its Crip chat. Which all of you are invited to, so you can go sign up for there. So with little ado, I'm gonna welcome Pauline into this conversation. And. She's she has a whole concept of disability that she likes to talk about. I'm not even gonna reveal that. So welcome Paulie. Thank you so much. I am so excited to be here. And I just wanted to give shout outs. I haven't seen Sam on a crypt chat for awhile, so I just want to give a shot. To Sam. Thank you all for being here tonight and giving us the opportunity to share with you a little bit about our disability experience. Like Priya said I was born without arms and legs. Well, I do have a small leg and it's, it's not a normal leg, but it is the inspiration behind the media company. I created called one leg up productions. I was raised in California and the Silicon Valley. I was born. I'm going to age myself now in 1975 for you, millennials who are babies still? I was born in 1975, so pre ADA, but when the ADA was passed in 1990, I was only 14 years old. So I feel grateful for all the pioneers that came ahead, that I didn't know all the work that came. That they had to do in order to get the ADA passed. So I'm a big shot out to people who came before us to lay those groundwork for which we can build now upon. And so. Growing up in California, it's very progressive and a very, I was very fortunate to be able to have that experience because I didn't really have to step into a role of advocacy and it wasn't until. I moved to Hawaii. I live on the big Island of Hawaii. I got
married.
20:40:23 So a little bit background back in California.
20:40:36 I graduated from Santa Clara university with a bachelor's degree in
20:40:39 broadcast, journalism and communication.
20:40:41 And I worked throughout various high tech companies in Silicon Valley,
20:40:44 as well as in the city government,
20:40:47 as a disability program navigator,
20:40:49 helping people with disabilities get employed.
20:40:59 And so I have a vast experience in the private and public sector,
20:41:03 and I got married there and we had a baby and we just wanted to get
20:41:07 out of the rat race of California. So we moved to Hawaii.
20:41:09 So I could have the opportunity to be a stay at home. Mom.
20:41:12 And I love that this knee is called homeschool cause I'm a homeschool
20:41:15 mom and myself. So.
20:41:17 We, we do take advantage of that opportunity here.
20:41:20 Also in my time in Hawaii, I,
20:41:23 Hawaii is very laid back,
20:41:24 including the way they approach disability.
20:41:27 So they are far behind California in terms of the progress they've
20:41:30 made. And I found myself having to step in for the first time.
20:41:33 As an advocate.
20:41:35 Within our community.
20:41:36 And so I did that and I had time and I had space cause things are
20:41:40 quieter here in Hawaii to reflect on my experience as somebody with a
20:41:44 disability.
20:41:46 Prior to that.
20:41:47 I feel like the only time I related to my disability was from a place
20:41:50 of how is it holding me back.
20:41:52 From what I want,
20:41:53 how is it making me feel different and like an outcast.
20:41:57 And that's how I related to my disability.
20:41:59 And I only really thought about it.
20:42:01 When I had to.
20:42:06 And coming to Hawaii,
20:42:08 having the time and space to be able to reflect more about, okay,
20:42:11 what does this toll disability experience mean?
20:42:28 And in response to looking back on my life,
20:42:32 I created one leg up productions as a way to respond to other people
who may feel like they're alone in their experience.
I know as a person growing up with a disability had I had any role
models to show me what was possible.
It would probably have ended a lot of suffering.
And I just felt like in this day and age with our technology,
there's no reason we can't bring our big wide world a little bit
closer and connect people.
And so one of the charges I have with one leg up productions is to
create community.
And we do that through the Quip chat that Priya mentioned.
Every Saturday we have, and that was in response to COVID.
So I guess the gay COVID.
And so we also,
I also do lifestyle talk show called chair chats.
Where I wanted to show evidence of other people with disabilities
living powerfully.
And I feel like, yes, there are.
Problems with our system. We'll do have access issues.
There are still attitudes that exist out there.
Maybe not out of malicious,
but out of ignorance of what disability experience is.
And I wanted to show other people with disabilities,
that there are other people with disabilities that,
that get married that have children that,
that do find jobs that have fulfilling careers.
And I.
Try to bring that forth through my YouTube channel when lingo
productions and chair chats. And then, and, and, you know,
it's something I always take inspired action.
In response to July being disability pride month,
you know, the 30th anniversary,
that's a big deal. The 30th anniversary of the ADA. So young.
And it's life and it has accomplished so much,
but I was trying to figure out what was the best way I could honor.
This human experience called disability. And I created,
created a campaign called shaped by disability.
So if anyone feels called to participate,
it's hashtag shaped by disability.
It's primarily on Instagram and I try to identify.
How did they, how disability has shaped me as a person.
Because yes, there are issues. Yes, it can be hard,
but there has been so much beauty.
That has come from my experience with disability and I created a IGD
TV series. I won't go through all of them, but just real
briefly.
20:45:07 As a person with a disability, I would not be who I am today.
20:45:25 And I feel like shaped my disability helps bring that forth.
20:45:29 That disability is not something to be scared of or to repel.
20:45:33 It's something to be embraced and having a disability has made me more
20:45:38 grateful as a person.
20:45:39 It has made me more empathic to people.
20:45:45 More compassionate people who may feel like they're not, they're not,
20:45:49 they don't fit in or that they're alone.
20:45:51 I feel like having a disability has helped me think out of the box,
20:45:54 made me more innovative.
20:45:55 And I feel like these are just a few of the gifts that the disability
20:45:58 experience has blessed me with.
20:46:00 And like attracts, like,
20:46:03 and there are so many of us here from the crypt chat.
20:46:05 From that one idea of creating a community call crypt shot.
20:46:09 And I have, it will not just I, but I,
20:46:12 disability community attracts so many amazing people.
20:46:15 But I don't know if they would be well,
20:46:17 I'm pretty sure you would all still be amazing,
20:46:19 but I think your disability makes you even more.
20:46:21 Amazing and fabulous. And,
20:46:24 and that, that.
20:46:25 Is what I hope that people get with disability is that there would be
20:46:28 something missing.
20:46:35 If we didn't have this disability experience in our world.
20:46:38 And I hope that people can see that and get to know us as people.
20:46:47 And see what they can learn, because any,
20:46:50 any perspective that is different from yours is valuable.
20:46:53 And it just creates this beautiful world that we live in.
20:46:55 Thank you.
20:47:00 She is isn't she awesome.
20:47:03 Awesome. So.
20:47:10 The next person up. He's not actually here because he,
20:47:13 his name is Zach Zachary.
20:47:15 I don't know how to pronounce. I think it's Malcolm or McKay I am,
20:47:17 or I'm not sure.
20:47:28 You guys said Zachary meek Meacham.
20:47:30 He spent this last weekend.
20:47:34 He's from Iowa and they did this today.
20:47:36 Huge thing for the ADA 30th anniversary. And he was just
like,

20:47:40 I'm just too tired. I'm going to go, go to a Lake and hang out.

20:47:57 Chill out because he put a lot of work into the things they were doing

20:48:01 there in Iowa.

20:48:02 So he actually was so gracious to share a film that he made for the

20:48:07 Easter, Easter seals,

20:48:09 disability challenge that they did. And.

20:48:12 Zachary is a filmmaker, a photographer, and a speaker that lives with neuro muscular dystrophy.

20:48:21 He has his own digital media company.

20:48:22 And he also makes advocacy content for upgrade Medicaid in Iowa.

20:48:27 A movement that they're doing there.

20:48:29 So.

20:48:30 I guess the next one is Zachary. Isn't. Isn't ready.

20:48:32 Call me.

20:48:33 Yes.

20:48:34 I had it lined up just a sec.

20:48:36 All right, so nice to see your face. Okay.

20:48:37 I'm sharing the screen now.


20:48:40 So this is Zachary. Meacham's a movie.

20:48:42 I don't know what the title is, but it's good. So check it out.

20:48:50 Wait, but the sunrise.

20:48:55 I.

20:48:56 No alarm.

20:49:01 Every day.

20:49:02 Say a simple prayer.

20:49:06 I asked Jesus to take away.

20:49:07 Disability.

20:49:09 And then I tried to get up.

20:49:14 There were guys.

20:49:16 After 45 minutes.

20:49:17 Try it.

20:49:19 My personal attorney.

20:49:22 Gets me out of bed. It's time for breakfast.


20:49:33 The sports section, cause another trooper can run.

20:49:36 Try again.

20:49:38 For breakfast.

20:49:40 I have played out mail.

20:49:44 The tactical honor.

20:49:48 This is what it means to have a disability.

20:49:52 Wait stop.

20:49:57 I've never encountered male train on day of my life.

20:50:00 And I don't intend to start today.
Secondly.
This is not what it means to have a disability.
That's kind of a hard question to answer.
What does it mean to have a disability?
Okay.
Mainstream difference and does around here.
And be comfortable standing out the crap.
It means being a problem solver.
Technical world that wasn't built for you.
It's not anymore about the.
And your local legislator and Bailey better at navigating.
There Leslie freaking out.
In his family, the company.
No, sorry to answer. This is movement politics. People.
Yeah.
It doesn't matter.
We need our legislators to act.
And fighting against injustice because we've seen it firsthand.
I just saw a friend.
Who has lost 15 pounds.
In the last six months.
And just because she's not getting regular care.
I'm really worried about her.
Admins refuse to be put in a box.
Even though everybody has ideas about what your piano.
Fair every once in a while.
It didn't stop being afraid to ask for help.
Cause sometimes you just can't do hung around.
It means being okay with that.
Navigators people are resilient.
Where do you turn down? That's why many of us.
Production our time to making the world a little pattern fraternities.
and come after us.
And why would she get screened for other design elliptical?
I know the challenges that I faced.
And they may enter the person. I am.
And for that reason.
I wouldn't trade my body.
Or life would anyone else.
I loved the life I live.
And that includes frankincense.
Okay. Awesome. That was such a great film. Thanks Zachary,
for contributing to the event.
You'll just see me thanking you later.
The next person up is Katrina Smith.
She's also not here because she, I forgot she had something to,
can't remember what shift she had to do something.
I met Katrina Smith, like I think probably like about seven years ago, she has a nonprofit talk show called living with disabilities that she asked to interview me for. And that's how I met her. She also goes to college and to study psychology so she can eventually be a counselor for people with disabilities. And this is her film that she made this little film, but she made this little video talking about her disability and her experiences with it. So go ahead and play that.

At times.
Slack.
He may say.
I mean, I understand.
I'll have to.
And ask you what gets you?
You use a long word.
Have not heard of people are.
I'll ask, what should that be?
My grade level, if you want to say.
Is based on it.
What is it? Eight create loom.
But learning.
Just through teaching.
Stutter at times.
And.
So.
When it comes to me.
Lou.
I lose my leg is normally.
Any.
Just really.
You know, got me from.
Daily tasks.
I can get up.
Block. So for.
It comes down to learning that.
I do cookies
at times and it's supposedly.
When it comes to college.
Now.
High school.
Easy.
Basically.
The period of time.
I was.
In one class.
Junior year that's when teachers decided, okay.
Let's pick you out of your comfort space.
And could you.
And I recruit students.
The regulars.
Teacher's assistant.
To every class, except for June.
We don't.
So.
It made it.
Hi.
Put down that I'm no longer in high school.
In college.
It is much. Don't go.
Is he about.
About that is that I had my accommodations.
Now have tools that I.
Sounds good.
Well, not.
Allow you to use.
Your accommodations.
And.
John May allow you to use some of.
Yes.
I've had.
Issues.
With.
That even down DSPs.
And.
For the most part.
I live, my life is normal.
Oh, thanks. Okay. So yeah, that was Katrina.
I just find that story really interesting. And.
How she's striving to continue to get her education.
The next person up is Mick Rosenthal.
He is as that, right. Let me check my list.
Nick Rosenthal is an activist.
For voting, he.
Is currently working on helping develop this app called brink.
Which is to help people with disabilities to vote.
If you want to check out and learn more about that,
check out the West side break app.ceo,
and I'm just going to let Nick get right into his video because he
talks about the ADA and voting.
On the 30th anniversary of the ADA. I just want her to say that.
Voting specifically as much more important.
Because people with disabilities are being.
For a second as a voting group and denied.
The right to vote, even though.
Explicitly within.
The Americans with disabilities act.
It is mandated that those who cannot.
Food.
The normal way.
Or able.
To ask for a way in which they can vote so that everyone does have
access to the shape it, right. But unfortunately,
The voting rights law within the ADA is not being enforced.
And it.
Hasn't been for quite a long time.
Okay, cool. That was, I dunno.
I just feel that's really important to know a lot of people with disabilities have trouble voting because they don't have access.
And they have proxies and sometimes they don't feel comfortable to vote the way they want to because of someone else's voting, not voting for them as a proxy to them. But.
If you have a complicated relationship with your proxy, that might.
Be hard for you to vote the way you want.
The next person up is Cecil Williams.
I met him.
I met him.
Got a couple of years ago at the white MCA. And I just loved him.
He's just like a really great person.
He got into a car accident and suffered a neurological disease.
We're not sure if it's from the accident or if it was something that was just naturally going to occur.
But, like, despite these, you know, there's neurological diseases prohibits his body from working in the usual way, but he doesn't let that stop him. He likes to. Go on adventures and explore the world.
And he has a blog called adventures of Cecil and also an Instagram account called adventures of Cecil that you should totally check out.
And Colby, I'm going to think, I think you have this slide of me up now.
So I think we won't be able to see Cecil if you have that up.
So I think.
Excuse me a Cecil. We'll see somebody speaking.
Directly.
Yeah.
All good. Great. I'll stop here screaming.
And then we'll come back to this when your time.
Yes. Okay. And that will be next. So, and so.
Do you still go for it and introduce him? Cecil Williams, everyone.
How you doing? My name is [unknown].
Grateful.
Be a part of this event.
Thank you.
Per year for the invitation.
I deal with a disability cost share. Bella attached. Yeah. I was involved in a correct. May 9th, 2003. And to. Four. A. They died, nothing new with a new condition. At that time, I wouldn't. I just pressed my wrist on. My left wrist. Jumped ship. That year of 2003. Four. So in my feet. Try to have them. I deal with perfume now. The nerve pain. Ew. You live in your head then numbness. The whole night. So. Finding my adjuster. I've been him. Since the age of three. So, you know, I've had, I've been through. Throughout my whole life. So they, they have me. Best lab, but I was told, determined to give that you. Cause I don't want to be known. And be with my friends, you know? In a way. But. The car wreck, what a hand don't feel it. So, you know, it was no fault of my own. Oh, Hey. Acid the deve progress of the youth. God tool lose more function. And. And the name of the now it's upstairs. Test. Yeah. My boards. Coordination. Mom. Talk to me in the right. I went from. Braces. On both lids to using a cane to now using a. Walker. So. I worked all. Are we up to.
I think to 2008 and two months.
Glass blowing off, take your seat. But if they don't.
So.
I get.
I get this to build again, 2008.
Two years. So she dialed.
Here. So went back 2008 when I applied.
So.
Between that time.
I was.
Con to cope with and deal with this food.
In the house and I'm still am learning.
So then 2018.
I started to.
Great.
My shell, if you will.
I just turned.
Four.
And I was like, man, I, I deal with the disability, but Hey,
I want to live.
I said.
I don't kill, but knowing thing.
I said, I don't want to live the best life I can pop.
Not a journey. We talk how their friendship.
To.
For myself to get out, I'm going to come to the throne to get dr.
Moore to Mingo.
Settle in our house thing.
Because.
Before then I just did a minimum.
The drone, you know, some people would just.
This stability, they deal with shame and, you know,
they don't want people to treat them different.
So Monday, Mondays, well,
did he came a little bit later on in life?
But, like I said,
2018.
I go part time.
And I have words.
And 10 years.
Networking.
Adaptive sports.
You guys never is.
[unknown] aye.
Great to meet you. It's true.
Try it.
And when I tried it.
[unknown] Toby drive recumbent bike in a park.
Wow.
I, I got. I never knew about, I don't know. I don't know much about at VA. I don't know. I didn't know much about. Adaptive sports, but I'm learning. You know about the program and things are available. Excuse me. But my through yes, the meat. To learn more. Bob. The thumb and two beach. And folk, so. My journey. I've been kayaking. Right. Con MI adaptive. No. I did that. I did that this year. I've been angry. I've met God. I want to get that door shut. I'm committed to it. And, and so. You know, just like. I want to try all the different things. I'm nervous. And hopefully I loved him. Tomorrow I want to do it. And if you get us. Great. You know, But I did. I think. Marita's a deal one. A death. Right. I did. One mile to. Half marathon. 13. A mouse you, gosh. And. On my first half marathon. You know, it's. If it's about to go ahead to worse in front and one back. Alright, so. On my ninth now the one in bed. The whim, bear with me. So awesome. Nice smile. So I had about four math together. And then. Without. On a flat tire.
No crossover. So told.
This term and finish.
And, and I want to get to my.
Dory.
I want us to do God Dobbins chance last year.
I said, Hey, Hey, I've done everything.
Let me try this.
So.
Oh, well,
To call this place and see how they grew.
You know, make sure I don't mind to any red tape.
So I called them.
I say, Hey.
You got how much he got out.
I deal with the disability.
They're going to be a problem. And you say, wait, you need a doctor.
Acid. I say that is.
No, they need pools that I'm lazy, but to Skepta.
Cool.
All right. Cool. I got the name.
Awesome. After the Monday.
You know, I didn't get the attitudes.
The next day.
I say, Hey, how you doing?
I needed to know.
Gosh, I don't want to go Scott down.
Kind of talk.
Add move her with Dominica, but date, right.
Cool. I get that for you.
So within a couple of days,
When I met here.
I got my letter.
Poof.
My doctor said that I got that.
So my meat, my meeting with my third bus.
It's more of a mix.
G*****n place. Hey.
Yeah.
[unknown] com.
And that that very morning.
I did the wave.
Cause I didn't want to know.
Hey.
I wanna do this.
I got that desk. No. Can I tell them.
That's what I should have. How far away? Yeah.
About 30 minutes.
So I'll get there.
And lastly.

Put it in my GPS says dumb.

And they're calling me.

Me should that come in?

You know, so when I got the.

I have any problems.

No.

The papers.

And basically.

I had 10 of them.

So they, they.

The pay me with wonder.

Wanted up there and you got you.

One of the most liberating Voluma in the world.

To go.

What chance Bastien B in the.

On the airplane.

And dumped out of the airplane.

You've just made me in a cast.

I tend to give up.

You know, I today.

I kinda got mad, you know?

I went all the way.

And cause I'm fine.

That's all. No, that's all I know what to do.

It was.

But gosh.

They're learning.

I'm very inspired by eight one.

If one got Dory and often.

Mastery.

Well, that's a great story.

CSO. That's why I love you so much. I love your adventure,

your spirit, your adventurous spirit. It's amazing.

And thank you so much for being here and sharing that with us.

So next up is my video and John is actually going to introduce me

cause I feel weird to introduce my own videos. So.

John's going to introduce me.

Priya raise the founder of the grassroots group. DIY Abel.

She organized this event to raise awareness to disability by letting

us share our stories and experiences as well as she created a video

about her experiences.

In my eyes.

If you look up the definition of advocate in the dictionary,

pre array would be one of the many photos you would see.
She's full of energy and always ready to help people.

So Bria.

You're my best friend.

Thank you for allowing me to be here and guys without further ado.

Hi, my name is Priya Ray. I'm the founder of the grassroots group, DIY abled in 1999.

I had a spinal cord injury and that is why I'm disabled.

I was really fortunate enough to do my rehab a spot.

At shepherd center, which is one of the top spinal cord injury centers, rehab centers in America.

Dare. They taught me how to put on my clothes. Take a bath.

Transfer from my bed to my wheelchair and basically relive life as a person with a disability.

Three story to reengage with the community that I've been a part of for nearly 20 years.

That's when I started noticing that disabled and non-disabled people didn't know about the ADH.

They didn't know about the rights that people with disability had.

Now this ignorance exists beyond the community, that I'm a part of the music and art community.

It actually spills into the entire community.

I'm a member of the YFCA.

And I go there before quarantine. Of course I went there.

For exercised to manage my chronic pain that I get from my spinal cord injury. And it also helped me mentally, mentally overcome the pain.

So it was very important for me to go.

But the problem with the YMCAs, they didn't provide enough accessible parking for the people that went there.

On Wednesdays, they would have a class that was for senior citizens, which was great because we all need to exercise no matter what age they are. But if you knew anything about disability, senior citizens have a higher percentage of disability than other age groups.

So essentially what the YFCA was doing was inviting.
Where people with disabilities.

Than usual to their facility.

But not providing them parking.

When a community does things like this.

Not providing an essential provision, like barking.

It creates an unintentional bigotry that exists against
disability. We are living in the year.

We basically live in the age where we have information available to us

at our fingertips.

There's no excuse.

Anyone not.

One of the most important civil rights movements in America.

The disability rights movement, which led to the ADA.

We are such a rich and diverse culture.

Jen, we deserve to have access to education jobs.

Access.

It is just no longer acceptable.

Okay. And I think.

We are up to our last person and.

Yeah, our last person, Jermaine graves, who.

I just gloves, Jermaine.

He does so much stuff.

He does more stuff than most non-disabled people.

I know he's an event planner.

He co runs a clothing line.

He does dance videos on tick tock.

And he has cerebral palsy. So Jermaine, just go forward.

If you're there is he there? I don't.

Thank you Priya for inviting me. Thank you to everyone in this chat.

I can admit when I came on here, not knowing what they expect.

Inspire. I cried a few times. I'm not gonna front.

Cause like I thought I was alone in being inspirational,

but I'm not. And that's a good thing to know.

30 years ago this month, the ADA law was passed.

There are some benefits to it and there's some benefits to it.

First, I'm gonna start with the benefits. I was able to go to school.

In regular classes.

Because of the ADA.

I'm grateful for that.

The non benefits of ADA. When I started working at 16.

Until now.

Every place I've worked at.

The accommodations for me when I'm working is always a
Because they are telling me, they're not sure if they have the proper seating arrangements. And stuff like that. Also for me as an event planner who happens to be disabled. You know, I have to go to venues sometimes and wonder. Do they have the proper rent from me? Or are certain things accommodating and oftentimes as somebody with a disability. You have to think about where you're going before you actually go, because you have to make sure that we are going as accessible for you. And I don't think people realize that was the point of why the ADA was made to accommodate, you know, if you're traveling or if you're dealing with, you know, any type of discrimination. But beyond that, I just think that. Being somebody with a disability is doing the kinds of things that I've been able to do. As a young person, I think I have a superpower. Because. It's just not easy to live. In our bubble. And oftentimes were the only ones living in our bubbles. So I consider my disability with the CBRE policy. Also known as spastic diplegia. A superpower because I'm the only one who has it. And actually in honor of the ADA, I'm just gonna plug this in. I'm actually doing a March. In New York. Sometime in August or September. Because I got tired of seeing a lack of representation. In the pandemic as regards to people with disabilities. So I'm putting something together right now. For that, but outside of that, I'm just grateful to have my disability because I can teach people. I can educate somebody on what they don't know. And also, give them a voice, give them an understanding of what it's like to be me. And I'm really grateful for that. To be honest. Interrupt you. Thanks so much Jermaine I'd love you. You're such a.
And I'm so glad that you realize that there's other inspiring people out here to doing things.
Yeah. And, you know, we all inspire each other, which is so great.
I definitely, like I said, I definitely cried a few times today.
I'm not alone.
And that's a good feeling to know that I'm not alone in the way I was feeling.
So there's, this, this event did a lot for me.
You guys don't even know.
Happy.
Yay. Okay. So now I, I don't know how much time we, I don't know. I don't know if we're paying attention to time, but I would love it.
If anyone had questions to ask the disabled people in this group, as the panel, I'll call them. If you have questions, feel free to ask us because as you can see, we're willing to talk about. Our disabilities and I feel that's a conversation that needs to happen.
I just don't want to jump in and say that there's no need to drop in the chat. If you do have questions.
Just unmute yourself and feel free to just jump in and ask a question to anyone that you saw present tonight or, or to Priya. Priya has a question she wants to maybe kick it off with. Sometimes that helps folks feel.
More comfortable to jump right in.
So maybe you pray.
Do you have something that I want to say about what, what you heard tonight or what you might want to comment on? What about this evening's program? Well, I mean, I think we can see from all the people that's presented and spoke here tonight, we want more from our lives and we still aren't getting it, even though the ADA. 30 years ago.
And I think one of the.
Important things for that is allyship. We can't,
21:25:00 we can't do this alone and we need allies in our community.  
21:25:03 Like Tyler, Leah had mentioned.  
21:25:05 You know, there are protests going on for the,  
21:25:08 just this month was disability pride month. And the only.  
21:25:10 People,  
21:25:11 I really saw speaking about it were disabled people and a lot of  
21:25:15 people didn't even realize it was just.  
21:25:16 Disability.  
21:25:17 So then it's like, how are we supposed to have fried when.  
21:25:20 The rest of the world, isn't even recognizing us. So.  
21:25:26 I'd like to open up that discussion.  
21:25:27 How anyone on this panel feels how.  
21:25:32 Out how other people can be allies to us in our struggle and  
fights.  
21:25:36 Cause obviously we can't.  
21:25:37 We need all the support we can get.  
21:25:41 Can I go first on that Priya, thank you for that.  
21:25:43 Thank you for inviting me to this awesome event. Once again,  
21:25:45 my name's Talia Flores. I'm 25 years old.  
21:25:47 I'm an author and disability advocate.  
21:25:50 I was born with spastic dysplasia.  
21:25:52 A form of cerebral palsy, which is now currently having a  
party.  
21:25:55 So excuse this amazing background of space.  
21:26:00 Laying down part of the summit, but what I would say.  
21:26:08 How we need people to come together and speak out for  
disabilities,  
21:26:21 whether they have a disability or not. Because when they  
speak out,  
21:26:25 it's helping us spread more awareness and the Mo.  
21:26:27 More people we educate and we advocate.  
21:26:34 Like I'm a Reiner was fasting dysplasia. I wrote my first  
book and 16,  
21:26:38 and I've been using writing as a tool ever since to help  
avocate and  
21:26:41 elevate my voice to say,  
21:26:43 Yes, I may have cerebral palsy.  
21:26:45 Pumping on it.  
21:26:46 So that's my story.  
21:26:47 You know, and my advice to anybody here,  
21:26:50 that's wanting to be an advocate today.  
21:26:52 And tonight.  
21:27:04 Wouldn't be, if you wanna really mean advocate,  
21:27:07 use what you love, use your voice,  
21:27:09 but do what you love to do and would be your passion advocate  
like for  
21:27:13 you as a musician. And a lot of you guys here do have thing.  
21:27:16 The things that you love to do.  
21:27:18 Like I'm a writer for several sites to such as the money on
her and
21:27:25 I'm currently working on my second book,
21:27:27 which is a near Morris slash advocacy book on how I got started to
21:27:32 advocate at the age of 18 years old. So.
21:27:35 That's my advice to you guys on how we all can come together and keep
21:27:39 on stomping on TP folks.
21:27:42 Anyone else?
21:27:43 I think I want to say something. I think for me,
21:27:54 One of the things I was grateful for that I have growing up is that I
21:27:58 had people that advocated for me and kind of showed me how to advocate
21:28:02 for myself.
21:28:03 And I think that's important too, like knowing,
21:28:05 like having examples of advocacy.
21:28:14 And having examples of like what you deserve as a person with a
21:28:18 disability,
21:28:19 with the kind of things I've experienced from being in school and,
21:28:24 Everything in life. I was not necessarily forced to advocate,
21:28:27 but I realize that my experience was different.
21:28:30 So now.
21:28:35 I have to not only advocate,
21:28:37 but make space for myself. So,
21:28:40 so the advocacy is a great thing and I'm not knocking it.
21:28:43 But when you advocate, it's important to literally make space.
21:28:47 Like you have to say I'm here.
21:28:49 You know, and, and that's with everything that we all do, you know,
21:28:53 everyone in this chat is amazing.
21:28:59 I'm gonna say that next, but you know, when we advocate,
21:29:02 we are making space for someone who doesn't know what our experience
21:29:06 is like.
21:29:07 So it could be something as simple as you like, you know,
21:29:10 whatever you do to advocate, it doesn't have to be necessarily.
21:29:14 You know, everybody has a talent in here and that's how you advocate.
21:29:17 And, you know, just making it known that you're hearing you exist.
21:29:27 So kind of making your presence known in a way that makes you stand
And that's the way that I advocate, whether it's to be putting together a March planning an event. Or, or my clothing brand. That's one of the many ways I advocate without realizing I'm advocating. So, you know, We all have our gifts and talents is use that to take you further. 2020 for me. Has it been. A year of realizing I could do it. I didn't think I could survive a pandemic, but I'm here still. I do miss my whole life, but I'm here. So. I've had to pull from myself a lot this year. It is. Something I'm still growing into. Yeah. That's what I'm saying. Awesome. Thanks so much. Anyone else here want to speak already?

I would like to maybe ask the people who may need, who don't have disabilities. If you had any questions about how you can advocate. And we talked to Keith. We keep using this word advocate and like, what does that look like in our daily lives look like only like a March or only like protesting? I don't think so. I think I advocate every day when I go into target or I'm getting gas and I'm just showing people. That. Like I'm living my life. Just like everybody else. Like I'm a typical mom and wife and got to get groceries and all of that good stuff. And I just wanted to. For those that aren't disabled. I feel like a lot of times people are just not, they don't know where to stop or how to stop. In fear of. Of 'em make, maybe offending anybody. And I just wanted to. Let those people, like if you had any questions or. I, I, first of all, I'd like to thank Colby and revolve for every. Enabling this event to take place. And Prius. Bringing an amazing group of people together.
The stories are inspiring and courage.
I can't tell you. It's it's.
It's a wonderful thing to hear.
And, and experience being with you all.
I've worked with the autistic population.
For many years and have a shop and hire adults on the spectrum.
I think stories are so important. My, my son.
My wife has been involved and, and we did.
A film called neuro typical several years back. And,
and again, that film with stories, stories.
Google on the spectrum autism spectrum.
It was so important. It had the thing and it's still,
it's still around, but it.
Sharon stories is a powerful tool.
And I think this event, if, if.
If you just continue that because.
Unfamiliarity that people have with those, with challenges.
Breeds fear breeds.
They don't, they don't know how to deal with folks,
but when you hear somebody's story and it gets personal,
an open stores and, and I just encourage that. I've,
I've seen it.
With autistic people and, and I,
I know it's true for everybody. And so thank you.
I really appreciate.
You're welcome. Thanks.
Not that I really appreciate that.
Anyone else don't be shy.
Hi, I'm Bernard.
One of the things that's come out of this evening is that I'm really
looking forward to working with Pria again.
A lot of fun.
Yeah. I wanted to say a word about.
ADA compliance, advocacy and education.
I taught for many years in a college and APA is very largely about
institutions and tries to address something.
Important by making.
Institutions to be responsible in ways we know they would not be,
if they were left to their own devices.
And I just want to testify that I have never been in a discussion.
About ADA compliance.
With a group.
You know, able bodied.
where there wasn't some expression of exasperations about having to comply with ADA.
When there wasn't some sort of feeling like it's okay for me to say this in this room. Because there are no disabled people know significantly, obviously disabled people in this room. Now it was just, it's just like sexism. It's just like racism. It is, it means that. If you aren't significantly, obviously disabled. You always have a responsibility. To intervene and not let people get away with that. I've never been in a discussion for a Hiring committee. Where one of the candidates was significantly disabled. That somebody didn't bring up something that others of us had to say, you cannot. Bring that up. And I've had people say, but what if it puts students off to see somebody. That was different from them essentially. And I think you just have to shut that down and, and in some way or another educate. At the local level. Sometimes the professor asked her to do it with students when students express. Resentment and exasperations that they find accommodations. Slightly inconvenient. For them. So that also indicates for me, sort of the larger problem that we were talking about, or you were talking about gaps in the ADA, and there are gaps in the ADA, but a lot of the times it's it's compliance issues. The ADA says what to do, but all kinds of. What's the word for that excuses are offered. I'm getting old. I lose words sometimes. People get to get away with. Not having to comply because they have special conditions. The institution says it can't afford it, whatever. Right. So. With ADA compliance usually seems to depend more than anything else. On the people who are in charge. Really believing that it's fundamental to their mission to
comply that
21:36:31 it said fair. It said equal.
21:36:35 You actually, that actually means fair and equal. Not just,
you know,
21:36:39 fair when we can manage it without losing a penny here.
21:36:41 Penny there.
21:36:47 And I think everybody notices that when that happens most is
when that
21:36:51 there are people from the category that's under discussion
actually in
21:36:54 positions of power people.
21:36:58 Have to be in the room.
21:36:59 You have larger universities manage this quite often by
creating
21:37:03 special positions for advocacy for the disabled.
21:37:06 They are looking after that population, amongst staff and
students,
21:37:09 et cetera. And it's a.
21:37:11 Institutional higher learning,
21:37:12 but other kinds of institutions have to learn to do that too.
21:37:14 I think to find, to, to say.
21:37:17 Through affirmative action or whatever we are looking for
people I'm
21:37:19 going to explain to us.
21:37:28 With some expertise,
21:37:29 what is needed here and how we can best comply because the
people who
21:37:33 don't have disabilities for the most part are not going to do
that.
21:37:35 They're not going to go off.
21:37:38 Do that one thing I have noticed within the last 10 years,
21:37:40 and you're probably aware of this is that in academic
settings,
21:37:43 disability studies and becomes such a respectable.
21:37:45 Feel that you have all kinds of people with significant
disabilities
21:37:49 who are off there.
21:37:50 Studying it maybe muscling in on somebody else's territory,
21:37:52 but at the same time,
21:37:54 They are doing research and that.
21:37:55 Unquestionably that's.
21:37:57 Helpful.
21:38:10 Who had been thinking about this for a long time is the ADA
and how
21:38:14 it's framed aside. What are the best ways to get across to
the public?
21:38:17 What are the best ways.
21:38:18 We have TV shows more and more TV shows with significant
disabled
Do people see that as tokenism or did they think it really helps?
Do you think it makes a difference?
I'll speak.
I think it makes a difference when it's represented correctly.
No sometimes TV shows or movies we'll throw in a disabled character as a tool for sympathy, or why.
This.
Why.
They should be rejected or are we in.
Whereas we're not framing disability as just another person that happens to be disabled next to a person that's non-disabled.
And I think there's some newer TV shows that are doing that right now.
Like, especially in the last maybe couple of years, but I think another thing is we talk about education.
But education, educating kids. It's like, I just remember, you know, I'm old, you know, older too, you know, graduated from high school, 1986.
Revealing.
But.
I don't. Yeah, I, there's never a captor about disability rights.
Like the five Oh four sit in the ADA hadn't passed yet, but.
The Bible four sentences in certainly happen.
There's no like chapters about ed Roberts or Judy human, and, you know, those are names that.
Mo most people don't know. And, and even disabled people don't know it. So I feel like, I feel strongly about educating children about.
Disability history. And I think that's a great.
In my opinion.
Can I add on to what Pria said? I couldn't grieve. I mean, growing up for me, I was born as a millennial and I grew up watching the show, new grassy and watching the show new Grazi helped me cope with my disability because there was a character.
Well, the name of Jimmy Brooks and he was a pure collegic, you know?
And when I saw him pop up on the screen, I said, finally, I'm not alone in this society.
went through at that age,
going through puberty and really be a lot fast forward today.
Yes.
There's been more representation in the media when it comes to.
Disability and in TV and television, such as TV show,
speech fleece and atypical when breaking bad.
So I'm very proud of that process. But with that being said,
there's still a lot of process.
That needs to be made.
Like I would like to see a Marvel hero with Sarah.
Sarah will pause your Disney. Prentice was cerebral palsy.
Or some type of disability.
Needs to happen.
And I'd like to add to that as well.
I feel like, and the other,
the other issue is that even when disability is represented within
media,
They're usually not people with disabilities playing.
Those people.
And so there's a disconnect. I think.
So, and I liken it to like, say someone there. They had an,
a character who was a woman and they had a guy playing a woman like
they did in Shakespeare times. Right.
Like no one would stand for that.
And so it.
I was gonna say, or a white person playing a black groups.
Right. Right. And so they're, you know, there's.
I think there's a lot that as people with disabilities,
we've had to swallow.
And.
And I'm not really sure. I feel like it's because of this.
There's this.
Stereotype of shame around disability.
Like if you have a parent and their child is born with a disability,
It's a tragedy.
Like my parents were released from the Airforce honorably discharged
because I was a tragedy.
You know, so even in that narrative,
how do we go from disability being, coming at,
being a tragedy to embracing it?
And saying it's just part of the human experience and yes,
it's going to be hard.
But wow.
You're going to have a completely different life and it doesn't have
21:42:56 to be bad.
21:42:57 Yeah, I want to add to that briefly.
21:43:01 Society has to realize that.
21:43:03 We don't need to be baby.
21:43:06 That you know, and, and.
21:43:09 Although I'm an adult and much older.
21:43:16 You know, I still have people that are like, you need anything.
21:43:19 Are you okay?
21:43:20 And I'm perfectly fine. So for me,
21:43:24 I think society has to get to this place that we are.
21:43:27 We're aware people too.
21:43:28 Don't.
21:43:40 Don't fear me because I'm in a wheelchair. Learn about me,
21:43:44 If you're not 100% sure on what is going on, you know,
21:43:48 take the time to learn. I think.
21:43:50 Being open to understanding what this experience is.
21:43:53 And that's one of the reasons I'm even doing my.
21:44:02 My disability prior March,
21:44:04 because I'm frustrated with the lack of news coverage on my community,
21:44:08 like where in this pandemic to,
21:44:11 but nobody's really talking about how it's affecting us.
21:44:14 So, so,
21:44:15 so that's really one of the reasons I'm doing my March in New York city.
21:44:19 And I will have the media there.
21:44:21 Because I'm.
21:44:22 I for me, I'm at a point with disability awareness.
21:44:33 That it's not where it should be. You know,
21:44:35 we do have influencers.
21:44:37 Now we do have personalities now that are out there,
21:44:40 like myself and others that are really doing the work and trying to
21:44:44 put ourselves out there.
21:44:45 But I still don't think it's where it should be. And.
21:44:48 I want to do a disability.
21:44:52 You know,
21:44:53 that's one of the reasons I'm doing my March in New York city,
21:44:55 because I,
21:44:56 I am frustrated with the lack of awareness that the entire world has
21:45:01 when it comes to us.
21:45:03 And, and, you know,
21:45:04 it's my first time hearing about some of these historians for you.
I didn't even know that that was a part of disability history myself,
and I'm just saying it. So.
Thank you for educating me tonight.
So, you know, what it really comes down to is.
You know, if nobody's going to give us the door,
we have to make the door, you know, my whole entire life.
I've had to create a Darwin. No one gave it to me.
So from event planning to being somebody who was a theater major in
college.
I've had to open doors that were not open for me. And so.
Yeah. If that's what we have to do to make space, we should do that.
That's what I'm going to say.
Yeah. And I agree.
I want to add something to what Jermaine was saying. Like, cause we,
I use a wheelchair too, and it's like,
the wheelchair is like looked at as this, like.
Bad thing to have, but it's not. It's a great invention.
It actually allows people from a broken toe to cerebral palsy.
A spinal cord injury, death.
Exist in the world.
So I think we need to get over this like sympathy and people like.
Having this negative view of,
of what a wheelchair is or being in a wheelchair.
And also the other thing,
because being the one thing that me and another.
A lot of people in this group have in common is we're creatives.
We're not.
You know, we're not lawyers and doctors and engineers, which is great.
I'm not, of course, if you're a disabled and one of those things,
that's great.
But I feel like we need to kind of kick the doors down for people.
Maybe don't want to follow the path of being in a career,
like doing something more creative and.
And we have to break down the doors a lot more in that world.
I feel.
Yeah. Yeah.
So that's, that's what I wanted to add to that.
But I don't know. Should we end this conversation?
So almost like 10 o'clock.
I don't know, it looks like Freddy has a, something.
I just want to add to this conversation.
And I'm sure.
A lot of you guys have probably experienced this too,
but I want to talk to the aid old people from, and.
Students be good. You see the wheelchair you think of versus.
Abled does not mean that were mentally challenged,
right?
Just because we're disabled, we can still pay bills,
live on her own. Right too.
One example the day.
I had a home health nurse come.
And she was like, if you're in a lot of pain,
You need to.
Call your doctor, or if your blood pressure goes up,
you need to call your doctor.
But.
If you start bringing them.
You need to call nine one one.
She was talking to me and like,
I was mentally challenged and I'm sitting there going really,
I wanted.
To tell her something, but I didn't be good. That's just the type.
Person. I am.
It's just frustrating that people think that you're just.
Mentally challenged and it's very frustrating.
Yeah.
Robert.
Dan and Tommy Cecil wanted to talk. Is that what.
Cecil here.
Did you want to say something? I don't know what's going on.
I'm pretty good. I, I kinda said.
I had to say, like I said, for me,
Okay. That's cool.
I'm good. I have nothing to say.
I'm good.
I went back into the brig mode here and I was like, Oh, okay.
Oh, well, there is one thing I have to say.
I'm gonna say this last thing. So I have this clothing brand.
Call not like the other kid.
Like.
Four and a half years ago, five years ago.
And I started that brand because.
I had an issue with getting a wheelchair at the time.
So from not having a wheelchair to getting a brand new wheelchair and
then developing a clothing brand.
And.
It's really changed my life.
One of the stories I remember was when I,
when I first started my clothing brand.
Was.
When I had to help this girl who had leukemia.
And from the time she was born.
She practically lived in the hospital.
Like she didn't go to school.
She had.
I'm forgetting her disability.
But she had a disability from the time she was born and she
was basically, she lived in a hospital, but most of her life.
So her name was Mia, Isabella, and Oh, she had leukemia.
There we go. She had leukemia.
So her name was Mia, Isabella.
And I remember her mother coming up to me and telling me,
thank you.
We had raised almost a thousand dollars for her.
For her hospital bills.
Because insurance can cover a part of it.
So I remember her mother coming up to me and say,
Thank you so much because of you she's able to still be in the
hospital.
And because of you, my daughter can live a life.
And we can pay some of her bills and I'm just like, I, you know,
To see where my clothing brand has become in the last four or five
years.
I've learned a lot about myself by helping people.
So the last thing I'm gonna say is however,
Whatever talents you have always help somebody.
Because when you help someone you're changing someone's life.
And that's what I know to be true with everything that I've done in my
life.
That's fine. I'm going to say.
Thank you, Jermaine. Okay. I mean,
I don't know, Colby.
Is there any, is there anyone else I don't want to like,
not let anyone talk. So I just want to make more and more common.
Colby knows I do this.
So it just.
Yeah.
You know, you very rightly talked about educating the young,
21:51:55 I was talking a little bit about influence through.
21:51:57 Popular culture in particular, but the arts.
21:52:02 Generally it's really important when you work with an
institution,
21:52:05 whether you're disabled or not.
21:52:07 To see that it doesn't.
21:52:08 Tender a lot of excuses for not complying.
21:52:15 Any kind of institution,
21:52:16 the word I was looking for before was exemptions people
trying to find
21:52:19 exemptions.
21:52:21 But a really big thing now that we all have to recognize and
work on
21:52:25 is the political culture.
21:52:26 And I don't just mean the president of the United States
thinking it's
21:52:29 okay.
21:52:30 To make fun of disabled people because obviously.
21:52:33 Here's a course in vulgar man, who does that?
21:52:35 But also that there's a.
21:52:40 There's something that goes on in political life,
21:52:47 In cycles that that presents a fairness as handouts.
21:52:55 And as long as they.
21:53:05 Who can make political points by appealing to people's,
21:53:08 you know, since that they need to protect what's there. What,
21:53:11 what is their own from others who want to take it away from
them?
21:53:13 We're gonna.
21:53:14 And keep having that problem.
21:53:16 With people failing to recognize that.
21:53:18 Everyone is supposed to be treated equally.
21:53:20 Whatever that takes.
21:53:23 So that's why I was so naive. I was so happy to see.
21:53:25 That brink app, which I had seen before.
21:53:35 Because there is a very, very significant voting block there.
21:53:39 And God knows there are people who do not want disabled
people to get
21:53:42 out there and vote.
21:53:46 So folks have to, you know, like I said, it's great to have
allies,
21:53:49 but also will end up representing their own interests and
fighting for
21:53:54 You see it with every other group.
21:53:55 So yeah, political culture, we have to work on it.
21:53:57 Definitely. Thank you so much.
21:53:58 Or that.
Thanks for you. Yeah, you're welcome. So. I don't cut anyone off. So is anyone have anything else they wanna add to this conversation? Oh, well, okay. I see. Holding your hand up, but I just want to acknowledge. Comment in the chat. There was a question in the chat. Oh, okay. Yeah. I, I'm not paying it. So, what is it read it? Probably, I don't know. Cause I interrupted her. Oh yeah. I just wanna think Priya a thousand times for inviting all of us to this event, this event was like teaching. It was awesome. And as I said before, Priya, you're pretty, Dornell some Shokeen. Guys are awesome. Everyone's awesome. Everyone. Eight year is odd. I'm not, I want to, before we end, I don't know if anyone's else, but yeah. I want to thank everyone that attended and thank everyone that participated. Thank you so much. I was really happy to be able to show everyone here what a diverse group of people, people with disabilities are a very diverse group of people like people in general. And I really wanted to represent that here. I hope I was able to do that. And so thanks everyone for participating. And attending. Thank you. You're welcome. I'm just going to pop in now and just say a couple of things to finish up. I want to make sure folks understand that I'll keep the zoom open. After my, my comments here and. Folks can continue to talk and catch up with each other. So folks who are from as far away as Hawaiian, which is amazing in Houston. Other places. And I know there's a pandemic, we're not all able to get together. So feel free to hang out and talk as long as you'd like on the zoom. I'll keep it open. As long as folks are still here and I'll,
21:56:09 I'll stop recording. Of course.
21:56:10 So you can gossip as much as you would like and,
21:56:12 and do whatever you'd like.
21:56:13 But I just wanted to kind of end in the main, by first off,
21:56:16 sincerely saying how much I have moved.
21:56:19 I have been by this evening and by.
21:56:21 By Prius presence in our community here in Asheville, North
Carolina.
21:56:28 And how she's been able to help offset revolve, understand.
Wow. Very,
21:56:32 very simple things that we should know and should be aware of
because
21:56:35 of the ADA, about accessibility to our events and our
programming.
21:56:39 Our, our physical space,
21:56:40 which is of course now closed because of the pandemic.
21:56:42 One before that.
21:56:43 Huh.
21:56:44 Priya was an important and instrumental person.
21:56:47 For us to understand as an organization,
21:56:49 how important accessibility was and how that we should make
that.
21:56:51 A priority.
21:56:52 And she, then again, made that clear.
21:56:56 Even during our online initiative here through homeschool,
21:56:59 by making sure that our closed captioning capabilities were
possible.
21:57:02 And I want to thank you for your, for, for making that.
21:57:04 Being that voice in our community here.
21:57:07 And obviously being that voice for the community that's out
there.
21:57:11 So thank you.
21:57:17 I just wanted to say just for a second that we, we, as a,
21:57:19 as an organization are going to take our break next week.
21:57:22 We're not going out. We're going to be dark.
21:57:23 Not having a program.
21:57:26 And the reason for that is because we're actually having our
first
21:57:28 advisory board meeting.
21:57:34 This week, which Priya is a part of.
21:57:36 And I'm thankful that she there's a part of that.
21:57:38 And it was vital to have her voice on this committee.
21:57:41 And are, are we're remitting to,
21:57:42 to just attend to our current challenges in our future goals.
21:57:44 And some of those goals.
21:57:45 We're advocated for tonight.
21:57:51 We're going to be discussing how and deciding how,
21:57:53 and if we will move forward with a physical space.
21:57:55 In the future.
And how the pandemic has affected our thinking about what a physical space means to our community. We're also going to be spending some time thinking and listening very deeply about how we might better serve our community as a whole. And we will look forward to sharing that with you. And if you're interested in what we hear in Asheville and what our organization is thinking about, please check our website. What's I'll drop in the chat, which I had to have dropped in the chat. And I'll also drop in the chat are our homeschool page, which will have a link directly to the archived recording of tonight's program. And I encourage you to share the archives program to anyone and everyone that you can. Who were not able to be here tonight because I do think there was some remarkable, amazing things shared. And I think as it was stated by Ron Larsen has been a tremendous supporter of what we do here at revolve and also everyone else. His voice stories are so important. And I think it's important for us to understand that. Being able to facilitate an advocate for the ability for people to give, to tell their stories so much helps us able-bodied folks understand exactly what the ADA is lacking. 30 years on and we need to be a better advocates and better allies. To our community. So I want to thank for you again. I want to thank everyone that participated tonight. I was very moved by each person's story. I hope that folks will stay in touch. I hope that we can actually make this more of a, something that happens more often than. 30 years on. I hope that we can make this, something that happens. The way that we can, can connect, not only with our community here in Asheville that are disabled, but with communities elsewhere. So we can help find ways to be allies and advocate.
Some things. I'm saying this because I think it's important in this political.
A year and then this year, Voting.
I think here locally, we need to be able to identify allies on the city council.
We needed to identify folks that aren't allies and we need to hold them accountable for why they aren't promoting.
The ADA and disabled rights, as much as an equally, as we are promoting black lives matters,
which is not at all undermining the importance of black lives matters.
But at the same time, I think it's important to also.
Overlooked, especially during pride during disabled pride month,
the fact that these rights are,
are as equal and should be seen and talked about in the same breath.
So I'm hoping that we can use this opportunity tonight to kind of move forward with this as a community here in Asheville. And I hope folks.
We'll gain energy from whatever one else had said.
About now, and I'm going to leave.
The zoom open,
I'll drop the LinkedIn to the chatter where the homeschool a, where you can find the archived recording for tonight.
I will also send the archived recording to everyone that actually RSVP.
To.
To the event and I, because I have your emails,
I'll do that tomorrow evening.
But please share. And please.
As I think folks have said that I just please be kind and support one another during this time.
And moving forward.
So thank you. And thank you, Bria.
I look forward to seeing you tomorrow afternoon.
In art,
I'll see you tomorrow afternoon and everyone have a good evening.
Thank you.