

DO NOT SHUT UP!

A creation of ADAPT Corpus Christi: Sixth Edition

DO NOT SHUT UP (DNSU) is an E-newsletter created by the Corpus Christi chapter of ADAPT. We encourage you to stay informed, get engaged, and most importantly- DO NOT SHUT UP!

I Met a Mom with a Son Who is Disabled; She is Worried About Transition

One of my passions has been talking to you about issues that do not get talked about here in our culture. One of the first things I passed onto you was about kids with disabilities who have been tortured in Texas regarding Special Education Services. A federal judge has issued orders where we now must educate kids. (Look it up on Google: 5th Circuit upholds fed's \$33 million penalty for Texas...) The federal courts have found that Texas gamed the system to identify only 8% of kids in need of Special Education Services in Texas. 13.5 % is the norm everywhere else in the country—yet only 8% here. The difference essentially "saved" the state money for kids who did not receive Special Education services; the federal government has cut off money for us so we can fulfill our students' needs. Everyone has a right to be educated. Everyone.

Then I met a woman who lives in Texas who is originally from Mexico. Obviously, she has not heard about this situation--her understanding of English makes her unable to follow this story. She has two kids with disabilities--a gifted girl with autism and a son who will soon graduate from high school. The woman did not provide a diagnosis but did state that he cannot read and can count only to twenty. In response to my questions, he is receiving Special Education Services.

No one has talked with her about support services for her son post-graduation. He has no job, no classes, no festivals, no teams--nothing to do after his graduation. I met her and I gave her a card for the Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living (CBCIL) so she can be educated on support services for her son. I hope that he was treated well at CCISD--he is now eighteen. If you wait, you will find that we lose our abilities as time goes by.

The Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living exists to help out people with disabilities. Texas is not a magical wonderland- CBCIL is set up to help people to live independently, move around the city, teach advocacy skills, identify affordable, help you get engaged socially--everything. Call them if there is some problem you need addressed. They can help you learn how to make your life worth living. Know what they do. Help our group out.

More to Know

Families are still separated. From the ACLU: "The government has since provided the court with data that indicates at least 2,654 immigrant children were separated from their parents or caregivers as a result of Trump administration policies." This is after being busted by the courts. Many Trumpite employees have no idea where all the kids are. (Look ACLU up on the web.)



About the Author:

Joseph Huerta serves as a Board Director for the Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living. His previous expertise as a Personal Injury Attorney and being a person with a disability himself, have inspired him to highlight disability issues that are often overlooked by mainstream media. Mr. Huerta does not only write about current events but is a fiction writer as well. He is currently preparing for the release of his second novel titled, *Mariposa*.

Image Description: Headshot of Joseph Huerta

Want to learn more about the issue in this edition and how you can help?

JOIN ADAPT!

Whether you're new to civic engagement or if you're a seasoned advocate, you're invited! We are happy to link you to resources and get you started on the path to effective engagement and advocacy! ADAPT meets at the CBCIL office located at 1537 Seventh Street, Corpus Christi, TX on the Second Monday of each month at 2 pm.



Image Description: Members of ADAPT seated around table during monthly meeting

Please Note: The views and opinions expressed in this article are strictly those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living, our staff, or our funders.