

**WILL THE WHITE HOUSE HELP
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES?**

**Will Walz Be OUR Champion?
Did Trump Say "Let Them Die?"**

**WILL NEW YORK HELP
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES?**

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The New York Times



My Son and Gus Walz Deserve a

My Son and Gus Walz Deserve a Champion Like Tim Walz

Op Ed by Tina Brown

Ms. Brown is the author, most recently, of “The Palace Papers: Inside the House of Windsor – the Truth and the Turmoil.”

The sight at the Democratic convention on Wednesday night of Tim Walz’s 17-year-old son leaping to his feet, with streaming eyes, a hand to his chest with a cry of “That’s my Dad” was heart piercing.

As the mother of Georgie, a 38-year-old on the spectrum who still lives with me, I recognized him immediately as one of “ours,” a sweet, unfiltered, slightly bewildered-looking young man who wasn’t quite sure what was expected of him in this epic moment of political adulation.

Gus Walz has, according to his parents, a nonverbal learning disorder, A.D.H.D. and an anxiety disorder, all of which they [regard](#) not as a setback but as his “secret power,” that makes him “brilliant” and “hyperaware.”

I know exactly what they mean. One of the joys of my life in the social churn of New York is living with a son whose inability to read the room makes him incapable of telling anything but the truth. Once, as my husband, Harry Evans, and I left a pretentious social gathering in the Hamptons, Georgie told the host sunnily: “Thank you very much. No one spoke to me really, so it was a very boring evening. The food was OK. I doubt I will come again.”

“I have never been prouder of you in my life!” shouted my husband in the car. How many times have all of us wanted to say that as we gushed about the fabulous time we just hadn’t had? Then there was the moment he went up to Anna Wintour at one of my book parties and asked if she was Camilla Parker Bowles. And the time at the intake meeting for a supported work program, when the therapist asked Georgie, “Has anyone ever molested you?” “Unfortunately not,” he replied. Georgie teaches me every day how much we depend on social lies to make the world go round. His sister – his forever best friend – and I feel so lucky to have him in our lives. So did his dad, who died in 2020.

And yet for people who are different and have no support, the world can be bleak. Their loneliness can be agonizing. Some people assume the school days are the hardest, but it’s the years after that are the social desert. Having a friendly, forgiving workplace to go to is critical. It’s often their only taste of community and what makes them such reliable and rewarding employees. The work from home movement has been a killer for people with special needs, often depriving them of the only social connections they have

social connections they have.

There's something of a trend at the moment for certain businesses to say they encourage the hiring of people who are neurodivergent. Sadly, it can be just virtue signaling. Employers like to think that a person who is neurodivergent is some secretly brilliant introvert who writes code in his apartment all day, not the more likely candidate: an awkward kid with a gentle smile who takes time to get the hang of things and talks too much about the same subjects.

One of my son's quirks is that he likes to wear bandannas and nail polish, and tends to say so in the first five minutes of every job interview. More often than not he's told that no, that would not be "appropriate." Appropriate? Being inappropriate is the very definition of Georgie's condition, and for his family, his most treasured trait.

The most painful thing for a parent is to pick up on the scorn of strangers that her child often doesn't notice; the whispered insults or titter at the next table. Remember Donald Trump Jr.'s sneer at the 2023 Conservative Political Action Conference? Referring to Senator John Fetterman's struggles to recover after his stroke, Mr. Trump said that Pennsylvania had "managed to elect a vegetable."

"I'd love for John Fetterman to have, like, good gainful employment," he continued. "Maybe he could be, like, a bag guy at a grocery store." Is it possible to go any lower than that?

But how could Don Jr. be any different from his father? The elder Donald Trump has never missed the chance to denigrate people with disabilities, and already the MAGA crowd is mocking Gus Walz's emotional embrace with his dad. "Talk about weird ..." the conservative media ghoul Ann Coulter posted (and later deleted).

If the Harris-Walz ticket wins, will parents of people who struggle with being different at last find a powerful advocate in the White House? This voiceless community is in desperate need of a new, mighty champion. Coach Walz, you who have been such an inspiring role model to kids all your life, and were caring enough to offer your own credibility to the role of faculty adviser of a new high school gay-straight alliance. I urge you: please make this your cause.

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News

Trump Suggested Some With Disabilities 'Should Just Die,' Nephew

Says

by Michelle Diament | July 25, 2024

In a new book, Donald Trump's nephew Fred C. Trump III says that the former president told him that people like his son, who has intellectual and developmental disabilities, "should just die."

The claim comes in Fred Trump's memoir "All in the Family: The Trumps and How We Got to Be This Way" that is set to be released next week. An [excerpt](#) was published by Time on Wednesday.

Fred Trump, the son of Donald Trump's late brother Fred Trump Jr., said that he saw his uncle being in the White House as an opportunity to advocate for housing support and other needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities like his son William, 25.

In the book, Fred Trump describes bringing a group of advocates to the White House in May 2020 to meet with top officials including then-U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar and then-President Donald Trump.

"Donald seemed engaged, especially when several people in our group spoke about the heart-wrenching and expensive efforts they'd made to care for their profoundly disabled family members, who were constantly in and out of the hospital and living with complex arrays of challenges," Fred Trump wrote.

After the 45-minute Oval Office meeting concluded, Fred Trump said his uncle asked to see him.

"I thought he had been touched by what the doctor and advocates in the meeting had just shared about their journey with their patients and their own family members. But I was wrong," Fred Trump wrote.

"Those people," Fred Trump said his uncle told him, "the shape they're in, all the expenses, maybe those kinds of people should just die."

Not knowing what to say, Fred Trump said he "turned and walked away."

On another occasion, Fred Trump said he reached out to his uncle to ask for help with a medical fund that the family had set up for his son that was running low. After explaining the situation, Fred Trump recounts that the former president told him "I don't know," then let out a sigh and said, "He doesn't recognize you. Maybe you should just let him die and move down to Florida."

Fred Trump said he clarified to his uncle that his son does recognize him. He described feeling hurt, but said that it reinforced his commitment to advocacy and raising awareness about what it's like to raise a child with disabilities.

"William deserves a life just like anyone else, and to that end, I knew I had to advocate for him in every way possible," Fred Trump wrote. "I

had to advocate for him in every way possible," Fred Trump wrote. "I might never change Donald's mind or change the mind of anyone who lacked love and compassion for those whose voices couldn't be heard and whose lives were fully dependent on others. But I knew what I could do. I could offer my voice, my experience, and my strength to push forward for those who needed it."

Maria Town, president and CEO of the American Association of People with Disabilities, called the alleged comments from the current Republican nominee for president "extremely concerning" and "an insult to the disabled voters who will be deciding this election," noting that a quarter of Americans have a disability.

"Being president of the United States means directing the executive branch to create policies and programs that improve the lives of the American people, including disabled Americans. Policies that treat people with disabilities as disposable or leave us to die are the very antithesis of this goal," she said. "Candidates for office in every party, in every race, from president to mayor, should be meaningfully engaging with disabled voters and providing us with ways to shape and inform their policy platforms."

The former president also faced criticism in 2015 for appearing to mock a reporter with a disability during one of his campaign rallies, an allegation he denied.

The Trump campaign did not respond to a request for comment from Disability Scoop about Fred Trump's claims. Time also said that it asked the former president to respond and received no reply.

WILL NEW YORK HELP PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES?

PROP 1 - NYS EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

On the back of this years' Election ballot will be a proposed amendment to the New York Constitution designed to protect people with disabilities from discrimination.

The current NYS Constitution protects New Yorkers only from

discrimination based on race or religion. Prop 1 will add protections against various forms of discrimination **including discrimination based on disability**.

Prop 1 will let people with disabilities rely on the Constitution when there is no statute or when those who discriminate rely on a loophole in present laws.

Prop 1 will incentivize new legislation to implement the Constitutional protection and provide a broad foundation for new protections for people with disabilities.

Prop 1 let people with disabilities challenge New York's arbitrary bureaucratic policies that prevent people with disabilities from accessing housing or other services.

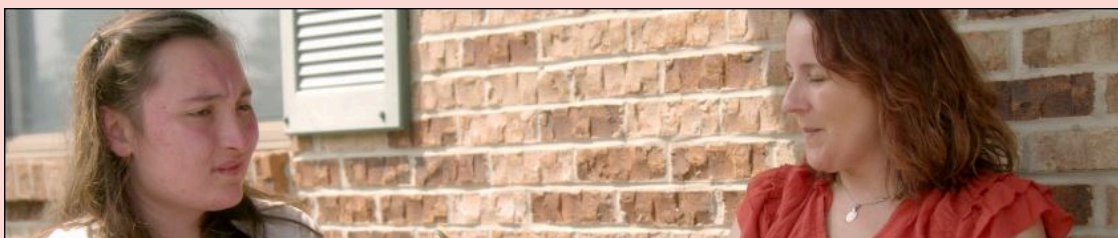
It is critical for people with disabilities that we add Prop 1 to the New York Constitution this year.

THE BATTLE OVER CDPAP

Albany plans to dismantle CDPAP, a home care choice program that prevents 250,000 vulnerable NYers from living in short-staffed institutional care facilities like nursing homes. In rural New York, home care options are extremely limited. During a worker shortage, the options are even worse. We need more accessible care – not less.

New York Mother Tells Gov. Hochul In New Ad: This is my daughter's life on the line

WATCH HERE





WHY IS NEW YORK FAILING TO PROTECT OUR MOST VULNERABLE?

REPORTED ABUSE & NEGLECT CASES ARE NUMEROUS -- PROSECUTIONS ARE NOT!

In 2011, then Governor Andrew Cuomo created the "Justice Center for People with Disabilities," combining the investigative functions from various agencies into one office charged with investigating and insuring prosecution of cases of abuse and neglect of people with disabilities.

Yet case after case of serious injuries -- broken bones, fractures, burns, bruises -- in group homes and other sites within the Justice Center's jurisdiction are dismissed as "unsubstantiated."

The latest to gain public attention is a family's lawsuit alleging that Shrub Oak International School workers did not follow their son's detailed behavioral plan and their neglect caused him to have a "catastrophic eye injury" that has permanently impaired his vision, [ProPublica reports](#).

