

Adrian Forsythe Korzeniewicz

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I am currently working as an Advocacy Programs Assistant for the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS), which is the leading human rights organization for all people with Down syndrome. As the NDSS Advocacy Programs Assistant, I am participating in advocacy initiatives on the federal and state level; I perform administrative tasks to support the NDSS National Policy Center staff; and I serve as the staff liaison to the NDSS Self-Advocate Advisory Board.

I graduated from the George Mason LIFE Program with concentrations in theater and communications and aspire to be a lifelong advocate for people with disabilities, and an actor.

I also have a background in theater, and work with ArtStream, Inc., an inclusive theater company for individuals with and without disabilities. In ArtStream, I was the client liaison on the Board of Directors for 2 years, and I continue to participate regularly in an inclusive theater company.

I am an active public speaker, spreading awareness for the ambition and talents of people with disabilities. I mentor self-advocates in our local Down syndrome group in a communication workshop. I also lead workshops for teens on how to include children with a range of disabilities in school activities. I am a trainer with Project STIR (Steps Toward Independence and Responsibility).

As you can see, I am very active at work and in my community. My Medicaid services help me to do this. I receive Medicaid waiver services for people with developmental disabilities. My services are self-directed. I decide how my service plan will look. My services provide job coaching, developing independence and other employment skills, and transportation. My services allow me to develop skills such as communication and public speaking, office skills, and writing skills to create materials and resources for self-advocates and advocates.

Cuts in funding for the Medicaid program will prevent people with disabilities from reaching their full potential. Without my Medicaid waiver services, I won't grow in my job and become more independent. Congress can make a big impact on people with developmental disabilities by not cutting funding of Medicaid waiver services.