



# Yes! Access – Advocacy Toolkit

*Tools to Speak Out, Show Up, and Drive Change*

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## 1. Key Talking Points

Use these in conversations with community members, media, or decision-makers:

- Disability is part of human diversity.
- You are one of 65 million people with disabilities who must be heard.
- Medicaid, 504 protections, and other supports are essential to independence, work, and family life.
- When we protect access, we protect dignity, opportunity, and freedom.
- It impacts the entire community. Everyone knows someone affected by disability, whether they realize it or not.
- When access is denied, opportunity is denied. Dignity is denied. Community is denied.

### Key Themes to Hit:

- Opportunity
- Pride
- Dignity
- Community
- Collective Power
- Hope and Action

**Tip:** Lead with personal stories, then connect to bigger values. Emotion opens the door, facts move the message.

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## 2. Talking About Yes! Access

- "Yes! Access is about dignity, community, and opportunity. It's about sharing stories and building connections because we are your family members, neighbors, co-workers and friends."
  - "This campaign centers on real stories because stories change minds. We are claiming our voice and our future."
  - "Access isn't a favor — it's a necessity based on shared values. It's about what every person needs to live, work, and belong in the community."
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## 3. Email/Letter Templates for Policymakers

### Subject: Protect Disability Access for All

Dear [Representative/Senator Name],

As a [constituent/parent/person with a disability/ally], I urge you to protect and expand access for people with disabilities. There are an estimated over 65 million people with disabilities in America. That is 1 in 4 people of your constituents. This means preserving Medicaid, defending Section 504 and other programs developed to ensure access to education, work, and the spaces we all belong. It is crucial for the success of the community.

Opportunity, dignity, and independence are values we all hold. Access isn't about special treatment — it's about what benefits everyone. Your leadership can make a real difference in the lives of millions of families like mine.

Please stand with the disability community and say YES to access.

Sincerely,  
[Your Name]  
[Your City/State]

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## 3. Phone Script for Advocacy Calls

Hi, my name is [Name], and I'm a [describe role — parent, veteran, community member] from [City].

I'm calling to ask [Representative/Senator Name] to protect access for people with disabilities — including Medicaid services, disability programs, and civil rights under Section 504.

Decades of progress are under threat, and that affects all of us — not just people with disabilities, but families, communities, and the future we're building together.

This issue matters to me because [brief personal reason].

Disability isn't rare. It's a part of every community, every family, every workplace. Fighting for access is fighting for all of us.

Access should be a basic part of life. Please stand with our community. Thank you.

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## 4. Social Media Advocacy Prompts

- "I support #YesAccess because everyone deserves the chance to thrive."
- "Access is a civil right — not an extra. #DisabilityRights #AccessForAll"
- "My story shows why Medicaid matters. What's yours? #KeepItReal #YesAccess"

Tag local leaders or use campaign hashtags to build visibility.

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## 5. Volunteer Advocacy Roles

- **Story Ambassador** – Help others share their stories
  - **Social Media Advocate** – Post weekly with hashtag guidance
  - **Event Liaison** – Host or co-host community awareness events
  - **Policy Watcher** – Stay updated on local/state disability policy
  - **Letter Leader** – Coordinate a group to write or call decision-makers
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## 7. Quick Action Checklist

- ☐ Share a personal story
- ☐ Send an email to your representative
- ☐ Call your local official's office
- ☐ Post a campaign message online
- ☐ Bring a friend into the movement
- ☐ Host a virtual or in-person story event
- ☐ Print and share the Yes! Access one-pager