

PRESS RELEASE

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Yes! Access Hosts Activation Summit to Ignite a Unified Disability Rights Movement.

Disability justice leaders unite in movement to build a brighter future for all

UNITED STATES, August 5, 2025 — **Yes! Access**, a newly recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of people with disabilities, hosted its highly anticipated Access Activation Summit on the 5th of August, 2025, bringing together advocates, community leaders, and supporters from across the United States to mobilize a powerful, unified movement for disability justice.

The virtual event featured remarks from Co-Founders **Tara Cunningham** and **Meg O'Connell**, who emphasized the urgency of shifting the disability narrative from reactive to proactive.

"Yes! Access is about more than advocacy—it's about creating a cultural shift where dignity, inclusion, access, and equity for people with disabilities are the default," said **Tara Cunningham**, who is autistic and a disability rights advocate. Tara went on to state that *"Every story matters, every voice matters, and when we unite, we have the power to shape the policies and culture that impact our lives."*

Launched earlier this year in response to growing threats to disability rights, **Yes! Access** has rapidly expanded into a volunteer-driven coalition of 30 dedicated members from across the country, with 75% of whom identify as having a disability. The organization's mission is clear: **to unify the voices of 70 million Americans with disabilities, amplify lived experiences, and mobilize a nationwide campaign to ensure true access for all.**

The Summit featured insights from Legal Chair **Aideen Byrne**, who discussed the erosion of legal protections for people with disabilities and underscored the importance of coalition-building. Project Management Chair **Angelina Hanson** and Communications Chair **Drew McKay** outlined well-thought-out and effective strategies for building large-scale public engagement through storytelling, shared values, and social media amplification using the hashtag **#YesAccess**.

According to Drew McKay, *"At the center of a world where disabled people thrive, you need access to education, healthcare, transportation, voting, employment, and a seat at the decision-making table."* With this reality, she concludes that *"Access isn't the end goal; it's the starting line."*

With its new nonprofit status, Yes! Access is poised to expand its reach, deepen its partnerships, and drive a national conversation around disability rights. The organization invites individuals, allies, and organizations to join the movement by sharing their own disability and accessibility stories and connecting them to the campaign through **#YesAccess**.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world," Co-founder Meg O'Connell concluded, quoting Margaret Mead. "Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has; and we are that group."

About Yes! Access

Yes! Access is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to protecting and advancing the rights of people with disabilities. By uniting voices, sharing stories, and driving cultural change, Yes! Access works to ensure dignity, inclusion, access, and equity for all.

Visit **yesaccess.org** to explore the campaign, access free tools, partner, donate, or share your story. Follow **@YesAccess** to be part of a movement that's rewriting the story of disability with pride, power, and possibility.

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