"Americans with Disabilities don’t want your pity or your lethal mercy. We want freedom. We want LIFE."
— Not Dead Yet

In the Self-Advocacy Movement, the role of the support person is an important accommodation. Some people need assistance with personal care and transportation; in Self-Advocacy, this relationship may be that of advisor, facilitator, or friend. The key to this role is support, not control.

Self-advocacy means advocating for one’s self, standing up for one’s rights. For thousands around the world it is also a term of personal identity, focusing on one’s political power and right to self-determination. It is also a growing civil rights movement, representing women and men of all races, colors, and religions who have been systematically neglected, abused, misunderstood, and misunderstood for most of history.

In response to continuing images of pity, particularly in telethons, self-advocates helped to redefine the disability problem by asserting it as a matter of rights, not charity.

Most professionals and parents believe that persons with developmental disabilities should be protected at all costs. Dr. Beppe Nijeg diplomatically described the role of the support person as that of advisor, facilitator, and friend. The relationship is one of mutual trust, understanding, and respect. The key to being an effective support person is to support, not control.

Self-advocacy groups have recognized the need for support—through advice, encouragement, assistance with daily living, and transportation—and have described the role of the support person as that of advisor, facilitator, and friend. The relationship is one of mutual trust, understanding, and respect. The key to being an effective support person is to support, not control.

###PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES FACE NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS AS AMERICA’S LARGEST MINORITY.

Valerie Schaal, one of the early leaders in self-advocacy, inspired by the advocacy and civil and human rights groups of the 1960s, and formal paths in reaction to personal care and transportation, self-advocacy groups formed their own organizations at the local, state, and national levels.

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