

The Value of One: A Petition of Support for a National Person-to-Person Campaign for Greater Respect of People with Intellectual Disabilities

We, the undersigned, believe that everyone is created equal and is endowed with the same God-given rights. As such, we are troubled by the way people with intellectual disabilities are often treated by peers, portrayed in the media, depicted in movies and on the Internet, abused and victimized at a rate far greater than those without disabilities, and generally devalued in our society.

We believe, as the President Committee on People with Intellectual Disabilities has recently reported, that; **“no amount of legislation that solely addresses government policy will ever be sufficient to create a truly inclusive society as long as the hearts and minds of the citizens of this country continue to harbor misinformed ideas and attitudes about people with intellectual disabilities.”** We also believe that when society has a more positive image of people with intellectual disabilities it affects their lives in many meaningful ways.

We therefore endorse and support the “The Value of One” campaign and will do all in our power to spread the message of greater Dignity and Respect for people with intellectual disabilities, and that we are all People First. We will do this by becoming an official member of this crusade for justice, by speaking one-to-one with friends, acquaintances and community leaders at every opportunity and enlisting them in this campaign. We support this grassroots effort because we believe that the best way to truly change attitudes and perceptions is through personal encounters and experiences. We further endorse all responsible activities that may augment this campaign including the use of the Internet and other media.

The Value of One petition will be used to commemorate our pledge of support to this campaign, to create a collective will that comes with “the power of many” and for potential advocacy and social marketing efforts in the private and public sectors.

