SPEAKER:
Thank you so much for being here today and appreciate your patience as we try to accommodate the accessibility needs as much as we can. So we are really (audio issues) wanted to make a note that if anybody needs to be closer to the interpreter or closer to the CART screen we have a couple seats at the front that are reserved and they are for use so please, if you want come up.

Good afternoon, to those of you joining us in person and online. Welcome to the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities 25th Anniversary Event of the Supreme Court Olmstead v. Lois Curtis Decision.

My name is Carol Tyson, I am the current Chair of CCD. It is an honor to be with you all on the eve of Juneteenth, another significant anniversary and celebration of freedom in our nations history. Before we get started, I want to thank Senator Casey's office (audio issues) for their support of the briefing and the work they do every day.

Thank you also to our interpreters, CCD staff and members providing tech support (audio issues). CCD, the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for better blur policy that reflects the values of the Americans with disabilities act and is also (audio issues). CCD seeks to ensure self-determination (audio issues) integration, inclusion for people with disabilities in all aspects of society, free from racism, ableism, sexism and xenophobia as well as LGBTQI+ (indiscernible) and religious intolerance.

Since 1973, CCD has advocated on behalf of people of all ages, with physical, sensory, intellectual, developmental and mental disabilities, and their families. CCD's policy work is carried out by task forces (audio issues) marking the ultimate decision and calls for continued work in the areas of housing, international and long-term service support, emergency management and transportation.

We hope you will review this statement and contact us with any questions. The statement will be shared with all those registered via email and on our website.

SPEAKER:
Thank you so much. Good afternoon as well. My name is Claire Stanley and I am the vice chair of CCD. We are here today to listen and learn from people with lived experiences about how the Supreme Court decision affects their lives and what (audio issues) persons with disabilities have access to equitable community living.

On June 22, 1999, the Supreme Court of the United States decision held that unnecessary institutionalization and segregation for persons with disabilities is discrimination but prohibited by the Americans with Disabilities Act in section 504 of the rehabilitation act of 1973. This decision stemmed from the bravery and steadfast advocacy of Lois Curtis and her coplaintiff, Elaine Wilson.

Curtis and Wilson went in with mental and intellectual disabilities and were approved to get services in their community and they wanted to live in their community but remained in a state run psychiatric unit in Georgia due to a lack of community-based services.

The Supreme Court held that unjustified (audio issues) perpetuates unwarranted assumptions that persons are so isolated and incapable and unworthy of participating in community life as a form of discrimination under the Americans with disabilities act.

The court recognized that confinement in an institution diminishes the everyday life activities of individuals, including family relations, social contact, work options, economic independence, education advancements and cultural enrichment.

So, a few notes that we want to go over for accessibility before we get started. This is a hybrid event. We have (audio issues) if you would like one. ASL is being provided in person and is available through the recording.

They will be at Q&A or question and answer session at the end of the event. All virtual attendees are muted at this time. Live captioning and tech support are available for those online. Select show captions in zoom to view captions and view the whole transcript if you experience technical difficulties. Please use the chat to let the host know the chat is open for any questions related to the material.

And now without further ado, I would like to turn it over to our wonderful moderator, Tory Cross from Caring across generations.

TORY CROSS:
Hi, everyone. For those of you in the room, can you here OK? I am Tory Cross, MD associate director (audio issues) government relations at caring across generations. I'm also the cochair of the CCD (audio issues) long-term support services task force, and we are very excited to be with all of you.

I want to add, if anyone needs either of these seats, there are some seats up front, there are a few seats on the left side of the room if anybody needs to be closer to the interpreter or to the captioning. Thank you for being with us.

To start with, I'm going to recite one of (indiscernible) would like to share any identity is important to you and what this 25th anniversary means. So I'm going to start by inviting up Elio McCabe.

ELIO MCCABE:
My name is Elio McCabe. Is that OK?

SPEAKER:

Just project.

ELIO MCCABE:
My name is Elio McCabe, on the Policy Manager at the Autistic Women & Non-Binary Network. On the self advocate and a person with multiple disabilities, cognitive and (audio issues) strongly identify with Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson and I feel (indiscernible) they were such brave and incredible people fighting against a system that is so strongly designed against those of us in a place of disempowerment and disenfranchisement. Thank you very much for having me.

KERIMA CEVIK:
My name is Kerima Cevik and I am the disabled parent of a nonspeaking autistic adult and Olmstead means everything (indiscernible) I am a disabled parent with multiple disabilities. Which began when I went blind at 21. (audio issues) in hospital, I got no support from the government.

My son is transitioning to adulthood, and he is fighting for the right to have (audio issues) he is perfectly capable of directing his own future and that is what Olmstead means to me and that is why I came here today.

TORY CROSS:
Thank you so much.

SPEAKER:
This is Allie. Can you hear me? Tech-support virtually. Thank you everyone for bearing with us as we practice hybrid events. We are having a little trouble hearing folks. So, if people are able, panelists, to just speak up a little bit louder if you can.

And folks, whatever you can to provide the most clarity and volume for us virtually, that would be wonderful. The captioner is having trouble capturing at all.

SPEAKER:
What I was saying is I will ask the panelists to speak up a bit while you're talking so folks in the room and folks online are able to hear as well as the captioner.

BERNARD SIMONS:
I'm Bernard Simons and I live in Maryland. I was (indiscernible) director from 2014 until the end of 23 in Maryland and I spent eight years in Missouri (indiscernible) I worked in system since I got out of school and college and (audio issues) and had the opportunity to work (indiscernible) I did some consulting work at one point and (audio issues) psychiatric facility. And you go in and meet somebody (indiscernible) the first thing he said to me is "You see that gentleman over there? That is (indiscernible) Olmstead case." That made an impression, big time. Working in (indiscernible) I have seen with (audio issues) facilities and communities.

People who do not have the opportunity to move to the community and Olmstead has been the linchpin of that. So it has been wonderful in my career, to utilize that, and I will talk about that. So with that, thank you.

RICARDO THORNTON:
Good afternoon. My name is Ricardo and I'm a former resident of an institution. There is my wife Donna. (audio issues) celebrate living independently thanks to Olmstead, which opened a lot of doors for us. And for many. I got calls to come and speak and yes, I will be there. I will be there!

As I said, I'm a former resident and I live in the community. My wife just retired recently. And I will tell you more about this later, right? A little bit more about me later. I served (indiscernible) committee, I served (audio issues) advocacy community and the board which I loved. American disability Association. (audio issues) get back on track. Thank you.

TORY CROSS:
Perfect, thank you so much. To clarify, if we can talk directly into the microphone (indiscernible) on video. It's alright! Now we know. Like that? Great. Thank you so much. Ricardo, you are, as you mentioned, someone who knows firsthand what it means to be (audio issues) can you share with us about what it was like (audio issues) and to be able to be in the community here with your wife.

RICARDO THORNTON:
So, living in an institution for me was a decision that was made by a court process. At the time. And when I went in, I went in with the notion that (audio issues) services, my ability was I think a learning disability but they said I had more behavior disabilities than learning. I met my wife, Donna, at the institution.

And she worked at McDonald's, right, honey? I have to make sure I got that right (Laughs). But in the institution, you do not make decisions, you do not have (indiscernible) you do not have those things. You can come up with ideas, but it does not mean anything.

You go along with the program, whatever the program was. The eating, the living (indiscernible) the stuff that was there, we had the activity program, we had the Special Olympics and I have to say Special Olympics is what gave me the open door, Olmstead, because when the Special Olympics (indiscernible) sometimes I win, sometimes I lose but competing and (indiscernible) we got rid of the R word and I'm so glad it is gone. But back then, that was very prominent.

There were some people who (audio issues) with the Olmstead, it opened the door to give us a chance to get out and (audio issues) the institution and good things and they had bad things. It had dark days and sorrowful days. The buildings, the cottages were named after trees.

Like the oak tree, maple tree, the Magnolia tree. Those are the kind of cottages we had. But (audio issues) and learning, we did not get a lot of but we got out in the community and we were able to learn and grow a bit more. So lots of family got upset because the children were not getting what they deserved and there was a lot (audio issues) on Sundays to see the children and they were hoping to see them living well and doing well by themselves and they see something that is wrong.

Like I said, (audio issues) a lot of things that happened. A brother named William and a sister name Caroline and they were my oldest family. We had no connection at the time. We were disconnected but when we came there, we found (indiscernible) build a relationship. My sister had a day where she could smile and be proud of her brother.

She had a day where she could not (audio issues) because of the medication. It was a dark day. She passed, unfortunately, and that is why today I'm here to advocate for those in institutions. I'm here to advocate for changes. My wife and I, we got out.

She proposed to me. And I said I would not get married until I was 65 years old and she said by that time nobody would want my ass.

(Laughter)

RICARDO THORNTON:
But we got married and we went to (indiscernible) what we wanted to do and they were against it. They were totally against it. We just got out, trying to deal with this, getting married, we got married. And we had people that were at the wedding with disabilities who had never been at a wedding before. It was such a good idea and opportunity. You OK? (indiscernible)

After the wedding, we had (audio issues) Wallace came up to visit us and why (indiscernible) and the institution, what is the problem? People dying. Accidents, mistakes, not sure (indiscernible) services, there were lots of things but Wallace came and (indiscernible) came out three times and we had (indiscernible) got pregnant, right, honey? Right, honey?

She got pregnant. We had a baby. She was born (indiscernible) no more than teaching you how to be a mother. We just don't have time for that. But it was (indiscernible) I had a basketball game and she let me know this baby is coming now. They want you here.

And I told her "OK," and when she says 60 minutes she was going to be at the hospital, I was there. I was there with the baby in my wife, 2 lbs. 11 oz. baby boy was born. In 1986.

And the question around that (indiscernible) excited, I remember my wife asking the doctor "Does he have his hands, does he have his feet, does he have everything he needs?" And he said "The baby is going to be fine." This is only to take home with you. That is" will my baby (indiscernible)? Will my baby love me?"

I don't care if I (audio issues) will he really love me? So today I can tell you yes because some of the resources (indiscernible) we were able to get some resources on how to be good parents. He went to school, he graduated, he is now married, right, honey?

He is married. And he has, how many children, Donna? How many children does he got? How old are they? One is 11, the other one is 10, the boy I think is 21 with autism, and he is doing a great job of being a good parent.

The message of this whole thing is that,Will my baby love me, was to think about when you go into an institution (indiscernible) we want to make a difference. We want to be part of something that everybody else has and makes a difference.

We may not be greater than you, but we want to make a difference. That is what Olmstead did. They opened up the door and give us a chance to come into the community and say thank you for the work you have done. I do go back to visit my family, my sister, at her gravesite and put flowers to not forget where I come from but I'm always educating.

That is that. Wallace came, he was inspired. There's a question later on at the end of the presentation because I'm confused with this question, we are at the White House, that's all I'm going to say. I will leave it at that.

TORY CROSS:
Thank you. This is for Kerima. (audio issues) what are some examples of services and healthcare that supported you and your family or created barriers?

KERIMA CEVIK:
There is a reason I am draped in this flag. Someone knows what state I belong to if I get lost.

(Laughter)

KERIMA CEVIK:
Secondly, Maryland is unusual. Because Maryland is changing, and it is more supportive of my son's generation of nonspeaking autistic people. See, I don't care if I live the rest of my life and not get any kind of government support or services for my disability, but my son (indiscernible) he taught himself a sign language independently.

And I cannot do anything but record him making these signs can write down what they are, because no one will (indiscernible) there is something unique to autism, especially in nonspeaking children.

And it is a presumption because of a label, a label can make you, change your life, (audio issues) the label that my son has is "Intellectual disability." Suddenly, because he cannot speak, he cannot think. We know that is not the case. We know (audio issues) not the case.

So, attitude about people who are born with an ability or to not use verbal speech, that colors his whole life. That is the biggest barrier to any service. That he has. That is it.

Anything else, my race, his race, anything else, things have changed enough so I can push past those. But he has to constantly prove that he is a competent human being, and that is the biggest barrier. He is 21 years old, he is treated like a burden. Someone who has never grown up but is (audio issues).

If I was in any other state, right now, that would be a problem. But states are changing, Maryland is changing, new generation (audio issues) have much better beginnings, then my son had (indiscernible).

Only reason I am here is to tell all of you people.

TORY CROSS:
Thank you so much. Bernie, the next question is for you. As someone with a broad legacy of working at the state level, what are the roles of states in upholding the promise of Olmstead? Over the past 25 what lessons have you learned about how the state can create opportunities (audio issues)?

BERNARD SIMONS:
That is an excellent question. I think about what I have done as a state director in those two states and the opportunities. One of the things I mentioned earlier, (indiscernible) in the community. There's the opportunity. But if you do not have (indiscernible) many states do not, where is the opportunity?

You know, some of the interventions that me and my staff use is saying, one person at a time, everybody (indiscernible) community goal (audio issues) and then, at the end of the year, go back and look at all of those plans and you say "How many people in the community?" If it is zero, shame on the state. If it is only a handful, what interventions are needed so that you can break down those barriers?

Including community (indiscernible) providers and (audio issues) corrective services. Those are the things, the opportunities. The other thing is that states will always use the Center for Medicare and Medicaid services, (indiscernible) so they are not using 100% of state funds for replacement in the community.

So it is always important to recognize that there is a little thing in the community based waiver called reserved capacity, and I've always belted and where I put in there that says "People who are institutionalized do not have to wait for a waiver funding to move to the community" so they go right to the top-of-the-line.

So those are some interventions that have been extremely important. It's like, identifying barriers, building capacity, making sure that we are continuing to move forward and addressing what we do. When I worked in one state, I wanted to close the facility down because it did not have money in the budget, the building was built in the 1800s, it was falling apart.

So I said "What do you think about is closing, the state closing the facility?" They said "no, that would be terrible!" And I said "What is so terrible about closing it?" (audio issues) let's have a conversation. And you have to frame it differently.

We had a conversation about you coming on Sunday afternoon, and you visit with your brother, sister, son, daughter, and you have a conversation with them, and you have a conversation with the staff who is interacting and working with them.

Do you really care if your relative is living in a facility like this as opposed to a small two or three-person home in the community? And the staff is with them? That is how we close the facility. We did that by moving everybody in the community with the staff. (audio issues) if you look at some of the "Regulations" if somebody in a facility goes to the community, you have to sign a release.

Freedom of choice. Otherwise, people do not move. So guardians have a lot of power. Over yes, they can move to the community, or know they cannot. And I think it behooves the state to have the conversation to the point of there are better opportunities in the community for people. And I really believe that going back (indiscernible) people's ability to grow.

And what are we about? We are about people self-regulating, people taking control of their lives, etc., and you're not going to do that with the facility. You don't have the opportunity. Somebody else is making the decisions for you. All of the time. And it is usually the staff, it is usually the clock. It is time for breakfast, it is time to go to bed, as opposed to (audio issues).

And so, we need to recognize, to give people the opportunity to grow and to be where they want to be and to (audio issues) identifying (indiscernible).

TORY CROSS:
Thank you. The next question is for Elio. What policies (audio issues) what existing programs ensure all disabled people can live out their lives (indiscernible)? Are there stereotypes about disabled people that get in the way of policies?

ELIO MCCABE:
I brought notes for this question. I don't know if they are as helpful as I thought they would be. (audio issues) if you believe in somebody's capability, then they are capable. If you believe someone cannot make a decision for themselves, you denied them the opportunity to make that decision for themselves.

The biggest misconception that we have about disabled people is that they are not able to do things for themselves. So what is the biggest change that we need? We need a systemic, internal, cultural shift. We need to all understand that disability does not mean you cannot live independently.

And we also need to understand, independence is going to look different for every person. Maybe you do not have any disability is, but you have a whole group of friends to help you make complicated decisions. That is no different than supported decision-making. Which is (audio issues) and make those people, make decisions for themselves without having to rely on a guardianship which can take away so many of their rights.

So what can we do to make things better? I talked to a bunch of different people at this panel. I was shocked I was going to be (audio issues) and you know, I heard over and over was "(indiscernible) not really working." It is not working because there are not the services that are needed to make it work.

We need actual housing that is affordable. We need housing (indiscernible) they can cover the cost of an apartment. We need funding. For home and community-based services. I have a whole list of different bills. They are out there.

There are so many different attempts right now. Ongoing, referred to the committee and forgotten. When you see a bill for funding for home and community-based services, you have to support that. Because you have to know that help, outside help, does not make someone less capable.

TORY CROSS:
Thank you so much. This question is open to any of you. So anyone who wants to answer it, come up. Let's dream together and fast-forward to a nation where all disabled people live in a community of their choice with the services that they have chosen for themselves and that they need to thrive.

In just a minute or so, share one way that life has changed for you, or for other disabled people in our families. And what happened in Congress to make this dream possible. Would anybody like to go? Do you want to take it? You can come up.

RICARDO THORNTON:
Sure. I think for many people life has changed (audio issues) I can sit or I can stand? For me…

SPEAKER:
(away from mic)

RICARDO THORNTON:
That's OK. Things have changed for me. I know after coming into the community, learning and growing, in my neighborhood I have to go to a meeting because people did not want a group home in their neighborhood because of values.

And I'm happy because I have a job, I have a check, I can have my money and save a little money. People still have to assist me with managing my money, but I have a job. So I have to go to these neighborhoods and sit down and talk to them about why I'm so happy to be in the neighborhood (audio issues) are you so upset about disabled people living in the neighborhood? What is the matter?

We want to live and enjoy life just like you all want. But (audio issues) advocacy to make changes and have a voice come out to really tell our story made a big difference. So I think my advocacy work and families, (audio issues) your work. Some of you have, and to see the work you have done, you have not given up and (audio issues) whatever you do in life, do not give up.

If you are in a race and it is almost time but you have to get to the finish line, that's how we all win. And I think Olmstead opened up the door and the talk hit the mark about affordable housing. There is no affordable housing (indiscernible). That is something we need to take a look at.

And advocacy, Project ACTION is where I serve. I serve at (audio issues), I love that board and I come out and speak. And I'm learning, I'm still growing and I'm learning through people. I learned about my disability. My disability does not define me. It is not the disability, but the ability that I have to grow and everyone has that.

We have to find that give them the gift. Use that gift. Tell your story. Thank you.

TORY CROSS:
Thank you so much. We will now open for question and answers and we will take one or two in the room, and (audio issues) whoever has a question please feel free to stand up or raise their hand or wave around or indicate to me in some way. You are welcome to say the question, and then I will say it again so that the microphone can catch it. You?

QUESTION FROM FLOOR:
(away from mic)

TORY CROSS:
Even better!

QUESTION FROM FLOOR:
Should I take this off? I want to thank the panelists for being here today. My question was kind of similar to (indiscernible) question of local and community response and (audio issues) towards people with disabilities. My question to anyone on the panel is: to what extent has local community sentiment towards disabilities (audio issues) independence and accessibility? Thank you.

BERNARD SIMONS:
I will take a shot at that. One of the things that I have seen throughout the years is that the educational institutions, with the idea and everything that is happened on a federal level, etc.

And people being (audio issues) classrooms, etc. And I think it is a different attitude for individuals. So it has changed the tone. So I believe at a local level, embrace the opportunity for their son or daughter not to go into either congregant living facilities, a workshop, whatever. Think about the tradition, 21 or 22 (audio issues) in many states and these kids are looking for jobs.

They want a real job. And so I think being integrated into the community, and being part of that fabric sends a message. And everything is done at a local level. It is kind of like real estate. Local, local, local. You start at the local level. It is done at: how do people get jobs?

Somebody knows somebody, somebody's in the community, somebody goes to the local coffee shops and says "I'm looking for a job." They know the person because they've been drinking coffee there for the past six month or whatever, there is a vacancy, and they hire the person.

It is all about relationships and being connected. And I think we see that more and more at a local level with what we are doing in the community. And I think we can get that groundswell and continue to keep moving forward, I think everybody is much better off. And people will be accepted as who they are, as opposed to not necessarily being accepted or not in the community, or where is the workshop (audio issues).

I did (indiscernible) we started technology first so people can have additions like assistive technology, so people can gain independence. That is what it is all about. How do I self regulate and take control of my life?

TORY CROSS:
Thank you so much. We have time for one more question in the room, and then we will switch to taking one or two questions from the hybrid space. Does anyone have any questions in the room? OK. You can come up.

QUESTION FROM FLOOR:
(away from mic)

TORY CROSS:
Or you can tell me.

QUESTION FROM FLOOR:
First, I would like to say thank you to all of our wonderful panelists. I'm not sure if this is the right space or right time to talk about segregation and the ultimate (audio issues) and I think about inclusion and also (audio issues) so what can we do in regard to building bridges for

people with disabilities in the workforce and education, mainstream education and also (audio issues)?

TORY CROSS:
Thank you. Great question. Would anybody like to take that?

ELIO MCCABE:
Thank you so much. Subminimum wage is the elephant in the room. It needs to be spoken out loud that subminimum wage, just those words, why is it right to value someone's work as less than the minimum based on a diagnosis?

I want to… I want pause for a moment. A lot of this is about the community integration aspect. On other community that I belong to is the queer community and what I think about what was the biggest turning point in gay-rights, it was when people started coming out of the closet.

When you know somebody who is gay, suddenly you care. There are so many disabled people who are closeted away enclosed workshops or kept in a group home and that is all they do. They are just inside (indiscernible) never allowed out into the world. Not allowed to participate in their communities.

I think this goes back, again, to an attitude shift. If we can change minds from the beginning, that a diagnosis does not change the value of your work, or that assistance does not make your work less valuable either.

If we can change how we view that, then we are going to change everything. What is the biggest barrier for people with this it is getting a planet? Getting the job. Employers wanting to hire you. If employers could only understand that just because you may need some extra assistance with one or two things, or maybe you need an adjustment in the lighting in your space, it is so easy to make these accommodations and end up with the best workers you can ever imagine.

So let's change minds, and be open about who we are and what we (audio issues).

TORY CROSS:
Thank you so much. And thank you for the question. Tech support online, would you like to read questions or I could pull them up?

ALLIE CANNINGTON:
Hopefully you can hear me. This is Allie. We actually do not have any questions yet.

TORY CROSS:
Great! Does anybody else in the room have any?

RICARDO THORNTON:
(away from mic) I got a chance to go with my wife (indiscernible) and Hillary, we walked in (away from mic).

(Laughter)

TORY CROSS:
I don't have an answer for that! I think I saw a hand at the back.

QUESTION FROM FLOOR:
(away from mic)

TORY CROSS:
Feel free. Or I can yell out your question. Either way. You can come up.

QUESTION FROM FLOOR:
People on Zoom should be able to hear me now. There should be no production issue. My question is just as someone who is also been working in advocacy for a long time, what conversations, if any, you are seeing about applicability of Olmstead as a strategy for de-carceration out of jails and prisons and not just disability specific institutions.

KERIMA CEVIK:
We are all not free until we are all free. When does (audio issues) and, really? When does that end? When we make mistakes do we have the right to live a life afterwards?

I think that is the main question here. I am anti-institution (audio issues) I do not think it helps our society at all. And I think that Olmstead is a step towards a different kind of society, but that society begins here.

We have to start here. See, I grew up during segregation. I grew up before the Civil Rights Act. I was a child then. I did not understand why in order to go into a building, my family (audio issues) to be segregated is the worst possible thing you can do to a human being.

We are social creatures. We are meant to be in society. So, absolutely every application of Olmstead is necessary, it should happen, and we have to start by thanking ourselves. What we think of other people, we think of when people do make mistakes, what do we… We have the largest prison population in the world.

More than any other country. We are number one for locking people away. Why do we have to do that? This is not the solution for anything. We are learning, aren't we? COVID must've taught us something. It is not good (audio issues). The whole country must have gotten that message.

But we need to apply that globally. And I really appreciate that question.

TORY CROSS:
Thank you so much.

RICARDO THORNTON:
(away from mic)

TORY CROSS:
Thank you.

RICARDO THORNTON:
(audio issues) once a decision is made, the court process, there is (indiscernible) and we get on the bus, get on this bus and we are riding. We have no decision. This bus is going to take us out there, and it is going to drop us off in a place that you are not going to come back to the city.

And that is like a break from the city. Away from there, no more problems. But no, the problem is just growing. It develops. How do I get out of a place like this? And I always thought, (audio issues) I always thought that the difference between, we had other institutions, we had a place called Oak Hill, we had Cedar North down the street, we had Maple Glenn and a lot of other institutions.

In one of the things we did was kind of (audio issues) basketball team to play and interact and get to know and had (indiscernible) made a lot of fun of us. Lots of jokes. Nevertheless, the whole thing we got out of it was the institution in jail. The only thing different is we did not have bars, we had freedom. The jail, you have bars, and there are children with developmental disabilities today, locked up behind those jail bars.

And the need to come out and be free. I like it because they've been there for years so it takes a lot of advocacy, a lot of work, Olmstead to roll up their sleeves and say "We have some work to do." There's a whole lot of children with intellectual abilities behind bars.

They do not need to be there. I need to be free. Just like we are here today. We are here to celebrate. What are we celebrating? What are we celebrating?

SPEAKER:
Juneteenth!

RICARDO THORNTON:
Come on, what are we celebrating?

SPEAKER:
Juneteenth!

RICARDO THORNTON:

Alright!

TORY CROSS:
Thank you all so much for coming. Thank you on behalf of (indiscernible) Juneteenth is tomorrow. (audio issues) thank you!

Live captioning by Ai-Media