

## #47 Disability Awareness in the Media

Dearest Advocates:

As many of you are aware, the Republican Convention was held this week, with the announcement of Governor Sarah Palin as John McCain's vice presidential running mate. Governor Palin has a precious little baby boy, Trig, born with Down syndrome. If any of you watched her speech on Wednesday night, Trig was definitely one of the stars of the show.

You may or may not like her political platform but she did bring disability awareness to the United States this week. She said in her speech:

*...."And in April, my husband Todd and I welcomed our littlest one into the world, a perfectly beautiful baby boy named Trig. From the inside, no family ever seems typical....."*

*Sometimes even the greatest joys bring challenge.*

*And children with special needs inspire a special love.*

*To the families of special-needs children all across this country, I have a message: For years, you sought to make America a more welcoming place for your sons and daughters.*

*I pledge to you that if we are elected, you will have a friend and advocate in the White House. "*

In addition, on Thursday night at the convention, Rosario Marin spoke. She is a former Treasurer of the United States and currently serves in Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's cabinet as Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency where she oversees the state's civil rights enforcement, consumer protection, and the licensing of 2.4 million Californians in more than 255 different professions. She has a 23 year old son, Eric, that has Down syndrome. **Her entire speech was about disabilities and advocating.**

Let me make this VERY clear. I am **not** endorsing any candidate or party in this e-mail. I am simply stating facts and my opinion to the events and media that have transpired because of it. I hope you find this information helpful as we continue to promote disability education and awareness in the USA!

I do believe that disabilities issues are bipartisan and my personal hope and dream is that Governor Palin continues to bring awareness and education to the situation in order to help others see the potential of children and adults with disabilities----**given the right resources!**

This is an exciting time. We can either let this inspire us to continue to help others understand our issues, and promote change in education and funding for individuals with disabilities or do nothing.

**I VOTE for Getting Involved and Doing Something About It!**

Let's speak out and make this a campaign on disability issues and promote change in this country no matter who gets elected!

In addition, please always remember to use **People First Language** as we continue our advocacy efforts. For more information, go to:

<http://ftp.disabilityisnatural.com/documents/PFL-Sh.pdf>

*United... We Will Make A Difference!*

Sincerely, Heidi

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**Transcript of Governor Palin speech from the Republican Convention:**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/09/03/sarah-palin-rnc-convention\\_n\\_123703.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/09/03/sarah-palin-rnc-convention_n_123703.html)

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**Speech by Rosario Marin at Republican Convention Referencing Children with Special Needs:**

Buenas noches.

I am so thrilled to be here ... especially after hearing last night from our Vice Presidential candidate, Sarah Palin!

You know, I was supposed to talk to you tonight about government reform and taxes.

But having seen how the media and our opponents have treated our nominee this week, I am compelled to talk about Sarah Palin.

After all, we have a few things in common.

Like her - and millions of women across this land - I am a working mom. I have three wonderful children who have blessed my life.

Like her, I have been underestimated.

Who would have thought the girl who came to this country from Mexico when she was 14-years-old without speaking English would become the first immigrant to serve as Treasurer of the United States?

Like her, I have been the mayor of a small town. I served Huntington Park - in the glorious state of California!

But most importantly - like her, I have had the privilege of raising a son with Down syndrome.

Eric, my first-born, is now 23. He has been and will always be the Wind Beneath My Wings. As a matter of fact, my desire to impact government and make a positive difference in my community started, almost immediately, after Eric was born.

When I was running for office, I was criticized as Sarah Palin has been. And while painful, I knew that was the price I'd have to pay to leave this country a better place for Eric and others like him.

I know I speak for the millions of families that have a child with a disability: Who better than Sarah Palin to understand the daily challenges of raising a family while holding a job, working on a career or managing your own business?

Who better than her to understand our fears, our hopes and our dreams for all our children but especially those with disabilities?

Sarah Palin will serve alongside John McCain as a passionate advocate for Americans with special needs - breaking down both physical obstacles and false perceptions of people with disabilities and ensuring that all of our children have access to the jobs, education, and privileges that Americans enjoy. Senator McCain, thank you for your choosing Sarah Palin as our next Vice President.

You have given families like mine an accomplished leader, a true **advocate** and a clear voice.

I know in my heart that there could be no better champions in the White House for people with disabilities and their families than John McCain and Sarah Palin.

So let's get them there!

Gracias!

<http://portal.gopconvention2008.com/speech/details.aspx?id=70>

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**Other Articles across the Country on Disability Awareness This Week:**

**Washington Post: The Support the Palins Really Need**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/04/AR2008090403031.html>

**Newsweek:** SPECIAL EDUCATION- Trig's Promise- Advocates for the disabled receive Sarah Palin's pledge of support with the wary optimism of a group accustomed to unfulfilled promises. <http://www.newsweek.com/id/157341>

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