

9/24/17 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – ACTION HAPPENING NOW

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WHO: National ADAPT

WHAT: National ADAPT Petitions AFSCME President to support Disability Integration

WHERE: 7510 Alaska Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC

WHEN: Sunday, September 24, 2017, Currently happening

Disability Advocates Bring the Fight for Deinstitutionalization Home for Union Boss

9/24/17 – Washington, D.C. Activists from the disability rights organization ADAPT are gathering at AFSCME President Lee Saunders' home in DC to demand that the largest public service employees union support the integration and civil rights of disabled Americans by endorsing the Disability Integration Act.

"ADAPT leadership has worked with AFSCME – even seeking their support crafting DIA's legislative language before a bill was ever introduced in Congress. We appreciate the efforts to help ensure that we have the strongest bill possible, however, AFSCME's behind-the-scenes support is no longer sufficient", said Mike Oxford, organizer with Kansas ADAPT.

The Disability Integration Act (S910/HR2472) is bipartisan civil rights legislation, introduced by Senator Schumer and Representative Sensenbrenner, which ensures that people with disabilities have the right to live in the community. "This Bill is vital to ensuring disabled people's freedom is no longer at

constant risk to a system that is biased towards our institutionalization.” said Anita Cameron. “I have been a lifelong union supporter, but while our life and liberty are under threat AFSCME remains silent. Their silence as we are being attacked lends support to our oppression.”

ADAPT hopes that in making our appeal directly to Saunders, the union will promptly declare its support for the legislation. “We have a long history of working with unions to promote the rights of disabled people.” said ADAPT community organizer Bruce Darling. “SEIU is a vocal and public supporter of our legislation and AFSCME needs to follow suit and endorse this legislation.”

ADAPT’s history, the issues it is fighting for, and its activities can be found at www.adapt.org <<http://www.adapt.org>>, the NationalADAPT Facebook page and on Twitter under the hashtag #ADAPTandRESIST.