



Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Blog
By Alice Bruns, 2018

My name is Alice Bruns, and my current position is the Senior Job Developer at Disabled Resources Center Inc., an Independent Living Center based in Long Beach, California. I was born along with my twin sister, on February 29, 1968, after my parents emigrated from Uruguay. My sister and I are alike in almost every way except for one. I was born with Spina bifida and she was not. Spina bifida is a congenital disease that occurs when the spinal cord is presented outside of the normal spinal structure at birth, which, by the way, has a higher percentage of occurrences in the Latino/Hispanic communities. This disease results in a variety of symptoms, including paralysis and other fun things.

I am a graduate of California State University in Long Beach, California with degrees in Sociology and Public Administration. I have chosen to make it my life's work to help persons with disabilities achieve equal access and representation in all areas of life, employment and accommodations. I am pleased to have been chosen as an ambassador for people with disabilities to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) in Washington, D.C.



Alice as a Disability Ambassador with her personal care attendant Denisse

The opportunity to represent this population was made possible by the Conference Accessibility Initiative's generous sponsorship by WID in collaboration with JP Morgan Chase and the CHIC. Their support included the fees for participation in the CHCI conference, as well as hotel and air transportation to Washington D.C. for both myself and my most valued personal care assistant,

Dennisse Jaime. Also included was the use of a scooter to enable me to comfortably attend the various presentations, lectures and events that made up the CHCI Conference. I will be eternally grateful that I had the opportunity to participate in this empowering and motivating conference.

It is important to note that 1 in 5 Americans deal with issues of disabilities. In Hispanic communities, the number is 1 in 6 and is just as important if not more. It would be a tragic loss to fail to include the contributions that could be made by this important segment of our society.

I am hopeful that my inclusion and participation in this conference will help me be more aware of the social and political issues that we face as people of Hispanic and Latin American Heritage. I intend to use the insights and connections I have gained from this opportunity to enable me to advance in my career and my personal cause of helping those who experience challenges that others may not.



Alice with activist Dolores Huerta

This incredible and insightful program will inform and educate the population of persons with disabilities as to the important and valuable contributions they can make to the social and political decision-making process. It is important that all interests are represented in this wonderful experiment we call democracy.

I am pleased and honored to have been chosen as a conduit and advocate for information supporting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the political discourse.

Alice Bruns is the Senior Job Developer at Disabled Resources Center Inc., an Independent Living Center based in Long Beach, California. She has worked at this Independent Living Center for over ten years. She strives to reach persons with disabilities on a global level to represent, advocate and empower all persons with disabilities.