



A-TEAM TOOL KIT – BE AWARE CAMPAIGN

**A-Team USA join us in our “BE AWARE” campaign recognizing
Developmental Disability Awareness Month – March 2023.**

**We will be creating an A-TEAM USA video featuring advocates from across the country
sharing AWARENESS STATEMENTS that promote choice in work, home, and life!**

March is National Developmental Disability Awareness Month

On February 26, 1987 President Ronald Reagan officially declared Proclamation 5613 making March National Disabilities Awareness Month. The proclamation called for people to provide understanding, encouragement, and opportunities to help persons with disabilities to lead productive and fulfilling lives.

The campaign seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of community life, as well as awareness to the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live.

Developmental disabilities include disabilities such as cerebral palsy, autism, muscular dystrophy, Down syndrome, or fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and affect a person’s growth and/or cognition. The figures show as of 2017, about 1 in 6 children are identified to have some type of developmental disability. But people shouldn’t have to be worried or alarmed if someone has a developmental disability. They can usually live normal lives as long as they have the proper supports.

The Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month shines a spotlight on the disabled community and demonstrates how people with developmental disabilities live normal lives. In return, the public can learn how they can help people with developmental disabilities achieve their dreams.

<https://www.set-works.com/developmental-disabilities-awareness-month/>

To join in the campaign, follow the steps below:

1. Prepare your short video snip:

- a. Dress in your favorite A-Team Gear or just wear Green.
- b. You can make a big sign with the “BE AWARE” logo too.
- c. Prepare your **“AWARENESS STATEMENT”**
- d. choose 1 from the following examples or create your own!

(Personal statements are best!)

AWARENESS STATEMENT examples: (Bold ones are particularly vital for this year's video)

- **Are you aware that Congress wants to eliminate my choice to work at (insert name of your work services provider) because I am paid a commensurate wage for the work I do.**
- **Why would the government want to take my dignity and purpose away because I have a diverse ability?!**
- **I believe in life, liberty, and my pursuit of happiness!**
- **Are you aware that that some advocacy groups don't believe my choices matter?**
- **In 2014 the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act was made into law. It was supposed to increase my rights to work, but only if it is a choice others believe. Not my choice!**
- **This year's theme is Beyond Conversations. What about my conversation right here and right now, about MY CHOICE?**
- **Are you aware that hundreds of thousands of people with disabilities may lose their work choices if the "so called" advocacy groups, government agencies and state legislators speak "transformation" which really means "elimination" of my work choice!**
- Are you aware that I work at (name place) and it gives me great dignity and purpose?
- Are you aware that my company (name place) is part of a very important supply chain for (name industry) by making (share the product/or kind of product)?
- Are you aware that 92% of your customers support businesses that hire people with diverse abilities?
- Are you aware that the government thinks it knows what is best for me because I have a disability?
- Are you aware that I am a proud employee of (name company) and do my best every day!
- Are you aware that just because I have a disability doesn't mean I am the same as someone else with a disability? We all have diverse abilities and diverse dreams and lives! We are not a "one size fits all" people.
- (Family member) Are you aware that the A-Team is a national movement made up of thousands of families in nearly 20 states who have come together to protect work, home, and life choices for our loved ones.
- (Family member) Are you aware that the government policy makers want to take choices away from my loved one because they think they know better? Really?

e. Shoot your video: (15-30 seconds): 4 steps -

1. Your Name
2. Your A-Team state or chapter
3. Your Awareness Statement
4. Say *"A-Team USA supports Disability Awareness Month!"*

2. Send the video link by Wednesday March 15, 2023, to:

- a. Noah Morris, nmorris@oppinc.com
- b. Noah will be available by phone at 1.920.728.3548 for technical assistance

3. It will be ready for posting to all social media the week of March 21st!

4. We will share the video March 31st on the A-Team National Call

5. Questions regarding the campaign? Contact Robin Kennedy; rkennedy@oppinc.com