

Healthcare over Marriage

by Bonnie Bui / October 2023

People with disabilities were stigmatized as being poor, tragic, miserable, and unable to contribute to society except as mocked amusement in circuses and exhibitions during the 1800s. Numerous people were made to undergo sterilization since it was believed that they were aberrant and mentally impaired. Additionally, institutions and asylums were required to admit people with disabilities, where many of them lived their whole lives. Although the "purification" and segregation of people with disabilities were seen as humanitarian measures, they ultimately worked to keep these people concealed from a prejudiced and terrified community.

Only 45 years ago did Education for All Handicapped Children Act was passed to guarantee equal access to public education for children with disabilities. But even so with people openly talking about how the education system refuses to provide support for these children, a creator named Jay and a paraprofessional on the platform called TikTok that goes by @jabcd_ . Expresses how the children weren't able to be provided with an actual special needs teacher. He explains if the schools were to use federal funding, they would have substitutes to teach the children due to not being able to speak up for themselves because of their disabilities. Many more teachers on the platform counties to talk and duet the video saying everyone knows of this and how the only people that don't are the public people.

Furthermore, another individual on TikTok that goes by the username @pogsyy. Speaks

out on the expenses of paying for being a disabled person in America. She states that if a couple were to be married and their income was at a certain level, they would kick people off social security disability, expressing, in her own words, that even marrying Jeff Benzos would leave her bankrupt with all her medical expenses.

Jimmy Panetta, a Democrat from California, introduced H.R. 6405, The Marriage Equality for Disabled Adults Act, on January 13, 2022 to further the discussion and do away with some of the so-called "marriage penalties." According to a press release, the Panetta bill would make the following adjustments to deal with Lori's kind of situation:

1. Removing the prerequisite that DAC beneficiaries be single.
2. Removing the provision that states a beneficiary's DAC benefits will end once they get married
3. Changing the common-law marriage policies of Social Security
4. Ensuring that if a DAC beneficiary marries another disabled person, both partners will continue to be eligible for Medicaid and SSI benefits as if they had never been married.

This bill is only a start of helping the many who are bond to these human right violations. The requirement that DAC beneficiaries be single is removed. Deleting the clause that states that a beneficiary's DAC benefits will expire once they marry. Modifying Social Security's common-law marriage rules so that if a DAC beneficiary marries another handicapped person, both partners will still be entitled for Medicaid and SSI benefits just as if they hadn't been married.

All who are concerned from Dominick Evens, who is a person who advocates for the human rights violation for years, can be found in a Forbes article that I have cited for more information.

Really, theres no one-day soultion for this all. Equal marriage can't be talked about unless the conversation about disabled

people is brought up. To a real-world soultion, many Americans have been preaching for year is universal health care for not only disabled people, college students, low-income families, and many more. It would lessen the burden for many, and bring about a better environment for all.



Work Cited

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