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An Inclusive Society

By Philip Temme

People with disabilities are just like everyone else and want to be included with their non-disabled peers. Whether it is in the workplace or a friendship. People with disabilities want to be represented and I feel that people disabilities and people without disabilities could both benefit with being in an integrated setting.

Programs like Best Buddies, that I've been a part of for the past six years, has helped me grow as a person, and through Best Buddies I've made friends with people that I would never have met without the help of the program. I've also become a better advocate and am more willing to speak up and share my story so I can create a more inclusive world for the generations that come after me. I was born in the same year the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law, and we still have a long way to go, but when we work together, and don't see each other's difference, and just see people as created equal that is when progress will be made.

The census is important to me, because it keeps track of the population in the United States. The census is taken every ten years, and a lot of federal programs depend on population. As in how much money each individual state gets from the federal government. If we don't do the census how is the government supposed to know where the population lies, and where to send the money? For those who need it the census is very important.