CREATING COMMUNITY
Annual Report
ASAN 2022
Our Mission

The Autistic Self Advocacy Network seeks to advance the principles of the disability rights movement with regard to autism. ASAN believes that the goal of autism advocacy should be a world in which autistic people enjoy equal access, rights, and opportunities. We work to empower autistic people across the world to take control of our own lives and the future of our common community, and seek to organize the autistic community to ensure our voices are heard in the national conversation about us. Nothing About Us, Without Us!

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear friends,

Community can mean many different things: gathering together, empowerment, shared values and goals, solidarity, common ground, belonging. While each community is different, they have one thing in common: a community takes active work to thrive and grow. Communities are shaped by their members. Together, we can create communities and movements that reflect our values, that are safe, inclusive, equitable, resilient, and welcoming.

Communities working for social change face many challenges. Legal and rhetorical attacks on our communities mean it is more important than ever for our communities to build power, to be able to push back against those threats. Equally, we must confront discrimination and inequity within our communities to allow them to flourish. For any one person, these challenges can seem insurmountable. Fortunately, this is not work we do alone — we have our community members alongside us.

In this year’s annual report, you’ll read about how ASAN sought to strengthen and empower our community, from fighting against many threats to the disability community and communities that intersect with it, to publishing new accessible tools to help people understand problems facing our community and what we can do about them. Every step of the way, we’re working to create the kind of community we want to be a part of — and we’re thrilled that you’re in that community with us.

In solidarity,

Julia Bascom

Julia Bascom
Executive Director, Autistic Self Advocacy Network
In April, we released a statement supporting the House of Representatives’ introduction of the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA), a bill which takes important steps that improve the fairness of our health care system for people with disabilities and people of color. For too long, people with disabilities and people of color – and especially people of color with disabilities – have faced tremendous systemic barriers to accessing health care. HEAA invests federal dollars in a wide range of policy solutions to address these barriers. ASAN will continue to advocate for HEAA’s passage and for the broader elimination of racial and ethnic health inequities.

The public charge law requires DHS to keep immigrants who may use government benefits out of the US or refuse to give them green cards if they are already here. The public charge law is racist, ableist, and grounded in the eugenics movement. We submitted comments, and signed on to two additional letters, about changing the public charge rule. The new public charge rule includes some positive changes—it no longer counts receiving HCBS and most government benefits against immigrants—but many parts will still result in discrimination against immigrants with disabilities. Changes to the rule can only do so much while the law is still on the books. We’re continuing to fight for Congress to finally eliminate the public charge law for good. We also signed onto a letter supporting the LIFT the BAR Act, which would improve immigrants’ access to crucial benefits by eliminating the 5-year waiting period before being able to access Medicaid, CHIP, TANF, SNAP, and SSI benefits.

In July, we released a statement supporting the Department of Education’s release of new, critical guidance to help ensure students with disabilities are not discriminated against when they are disciplined in schools. The guidance provides much needed clarity on when and how disability rights laws protect students with disabilities facing discipline at school. These necessary clarifications are critical for students who might otherwise face discrimination and be excluded from schools because of behavior related to their disabilities. ASAN will continue to advocate for the strongest possible protections for students with disabilities, and we look forward to putting this guidance into action.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act was the first federal civil rights law protecting the rights of people with disabilities, which crucially includes students who need disability services in schools. In July, we sent comments to the Department of Education regarding proposed amendments to Section 504, along with co-authoring comments on 504 for the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities. Our recommendations included expanding definitions in the law to better reflect and support the needs of nonspeaking students, changing language to extend 504’s protections to more students, and clarifying provisions in the law to ensure equal access for students with intellectual disabilities.

Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act provides protections against discrimination by health care providers and insurance companies that get federal funding. We were pleased to see that much of our prior feedback was reflected in the new proposed rule about how to implement Section 1557, and in October we submitted comments to HHS about further changes that could bolster 1557’s protections.

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Autistic Voices

White House Roundtables
Any time that policies affecting autistic people are discussed, we need to have a seat at the table. This spring, we were pleased to be a part of two roundtables with the White House’s Domestic Policy Council that focused on autism acceptance in federal policy. The majority of non-governmental attendees were self-advocates. The DPC is the main body that coordinates with the President on effectively achieving domestic policy goals, and we’re glad to see the administration centering self-advocate voices in these important policy discussions.

New Budget Videos
It’s important for self-advocates to understand how the federal budget gets made—so we can advocate for a budget that includes money for programs that help us! But the federal budget process is complicated and confusing, even to people who have worked in the government for a long time. That’s why this year, we released a series of new animated videos on our YouTube channel explaining the federal budget process in plain language.

Redesigned Website
We’ve gotten a lot of feedback on how people use our website - and we found that for a lot of people, the design and organization of our site posed barriers to access. We surveyed our grassroots to learn how and why they use the site and how we can make it easier to use. This spring, we were pleased to roll out our completely redesigned website, taking cues directly from your responses! We also added a convenient website feedback tool, so at any time, on any page, you can directly let us know about your experience using the site. Thank you to everyone who’s sent us feedback!

Community Living

Racial Disparities Toolkit
It’s important for people with disabilities to live in our communities. But it’s harder for disabled people of color to access community living. There are barriers. The barriers come from policies that make our communities unfair to people of color. These barriers are caused by racism. Racism affects policies about dealing with emergencies, police violence, housing, and more. This year, we released an Easy Read toolkit, “Crisis in our Communities: Racial Disparities in Community Living” that explains how policy choices, now and in the past, keep disabled people of color from accessing community living. The toolkit also comes with an accompanying discussion guide and video series.

Tell Congress: Fund HCBS
All too often, people with disabilities are told we aren’t worth investing in—but we know that our community deserves the supports and services we need to live safely in our communities. In March, President Biden confirmed his support for the largest federal investment yet to expand home- and community-based services (HCBS). We released Action Alerts and promoted ways for our grassroots to contact the Senate to tell them to keep HCBS funding in the reconciliation bill, including our new fact sheet “How to Meet Virtually With Your Elected Officials”. We were disappointed that the Senate failed to include HCBS funding in the bill, but we have strengthened our resolve and will continue to keep the pressure on Congress to fund HCBS.

Autism Campus Inclusion
This summer, we held our 11th annual Autism Campus Inclusion leadership academy. 2022 marked our third year holding ACI virtually, and we were delighted that even though we weren’t meeting in person, we were still able to foster a uniquely autistic space for our students as we provided a week and a half of training and community-building for 16 rising self-advocates. ACI participants take the skills they’ve gained and use what they’ve learned to advocate for real change in their communities. To date, we’ve trained 189 self-advocates at ACI.

Voting Matters
Voting is an important part of making our voices heard in decisions about who leads our communities. Who we vote for shows our government what plans or ideas we support – and it has the power to let you choose who you’re working with or against in the fight for better disability-related policies in your area. That’s why this year, ASAN held a webinar series in plain language to talk about why voting matters and how to combat voting barriers you might experience or see! Using plain language is absolutely essential so that all members of our community can understand how to use your vote to make a difference.

For Whose Benefit?
There are many therapies for autism, along with a significant amount of funding for research, development, and implementation of these therapies. However, autistic people rarely have a voice in creating and shaping these therapies, and there is very little ethical guidance for people who practice autism therapies that accounts for the needs, experiences, and perspectives of autistic people. Autistic people should have the ultimate say in what autism services focus on. To address these gaps in information, we released “For Whose Benefit? Evidence, Ethics, and Effectiveness of Autism Interventions,” a white paper also available in Easy Read and plain language formats. The white paper also addresses the prevalence of ABA and why ASAN considers the use of ABA to be unethical.

HCBS Roundtable
The Olmstead decision made it clear that disabled people have a right to services in our own communities. In honor of Olmstead’s 23rd anniversary on June 22nd, ASAN Policy Analyst AJ Link joined a White House roundtable of mostly autistic self-advocates to discuss the future of home- and community-based services. The roundtable was also attended by Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff!
**Supporting School Safety**

All children deserve to be safe and supported in their schools. Unfortunately, legislation aimed at addressing school safety often falls short. That’s why ASAN joined hundreds of other civil rights organizations in demanding Attorney General Garland, Secretary Becerra, Secretary Cardona, and Secretary Mayorkas invest in evidence-based programs through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, rather than using funding to increase police presence in schools. We also joined our coalition partners in the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights in opposing the EAGLES Act, which introduces threat assessment systems that pose major risks for and to students, including increased and early contact with law enforcement, overidentification of students of color and students with disabilities for “threatening” behavior, and undermining of students’ rights under civil rights laws.

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**Better Crisis Response**

In September, ASAN policy team members AJ Link and Greg Robinson presented at The Arc’s Disabled BIPOC: Disrupting Danger in Crisis Response conference. The presentation, “The Inadequacy of Training: Police Interactions with I/DD and Mental Health Disabilities”, addressed the failures of police training to prepare officers for helping people in mental health crises as well as viable alternative models without police involvement. They also discussed the recent introduction of 988 as a three-digit universal number for non-police-centric crisis response, and the community investments that are necessary to make 988 a successful alternative to 911.

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**SAFE Initiative Recommendations**

Children with disabilities are as entitled to safety and bodily autonomy as their nondisabled peers. The Supporting Access for Everyone, or SAFE Initiative, aims to establish best practice guidelines for health care providers treating children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In August, ASAN was able to provide recommendations on these guidelines in development. Our comments addressed many aspects of receiving health care, including highlighting how sensory accessibility, removal of time pressure, and accommodation of all forms of communication can prevent disabled children from experiencing medical trauma.

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**Stop Scapegoating People with Disabilities**

Too often, the subject of gun violence has been used to scapegoat people with disabilities and mental health conditions. Laws should be based on evidence, and the evidence is clear: people with disabilities are more likely to be the victims of gun violence. That’s why this year, we joined the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law in arguing that any gun violence legislation’s Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) provisions should be based on conduct, not disability status or diagnosis. This is important to avoid scapegoating disabled people while also keeping us safe from gun violence.

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**Endorsing H.R. 6877**

The use of no-knock warrants and raids have a deep-rooted history in racism and the criminalization of Black and brown people. In March, ASAN was proud to endorse H.R. 6877, the Amir Locke End Deadly No-Knock Warrants Act. In addition to establishing strict limitations on the use of no-knock warrants, the bill also bans the use of flash-bang stun grenades, other explosive devices, chemical weapons, and military-grade firearms from being used in the course of police searches.

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**Victory in Fairfax County**

Use of restraint and seclusion is dangerous, traumatic, and unnecessary. It deprives students with disabilities of their fundamental rights to be free from violence and discrimination at school and to learn alongside their peers. We were proud to stand with the families of Fairfax County, Virginia by joining a lawsuit challenging the school district’s appalling record of seclusion and restraint of students with disabilities, for behaviors as trivial as refusing to do their homework. The lawsuit was successful - as of this fall, seclusion rooms and restraints with a high risk of injury no longer have a place in any school in Fairfax County.
Our community includes lots of people who identify as LGBTQ+ autistic people, and we deserve to have resources made by and for us! That's why this year, we launched our Proud & Supported Series, which currently includes two toolkits: "Definitions and Beyond" and "Rights and Respect". These toolkits explain different ways people identify, how to talk about and recognize human rights at the intersection of gender, disability, and race in the United States. The report highlighted issues of access to health care, natural disasters, and violence against women and gender minorities. The report provided recommendations for steps the U.S. and "Rights and Respect". These toolkits explain different ways people identify, how to talk about and recognize human rights at the intersection of gender, disability, and race in the United States. The report highlighted issues of access to health care, natural disasters, and violence against women and gender minorities. The report provided recommendations for steps the U.S.

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**Research**

**Letter to the Lancet**

The principle of "nothing about us, without us" should be at the core of autism research. In February, we published an open letter to the Lancet Commission on the future of care and clinical research in autism on behalf of the Global Autistic Task Force on Autism Research, a committee comprising autistic advocates, researchers and representatives of organizations by and for autistic people. Our letter highlighted the crucial importance of including us as collaborators, as well as specific areas of research that ought to be prioritized, such as research into improving mental health support and global screening and diagnosis. ASAN will continue to advocate for research and services that meet the needs and promote the dignity of all autistic people, and we call for shared, accessible platforms to continue the discourse and start building collaboration.

**Rejecting Functioning Labels**

Every autistic person has things that we’re good at and things we need help with. Trying to split autistic people into functioning labels like "high-functioning", "low-functioning", or the newly-recommended "profound autism" flattens our needs as individuals into grossly oversimplified, reductive generalizations that make it harder for us to get the supports we need and to make the choices we want. This year, we submitted comments to the IACC and published a response to The Lancet detailing the lack of utility and the real impact of harm a "profound autism" classification would have. ASAN calls for research to focus on matching services with individual needs, rather than segmenting autistic people into groups based on unfounded assumptions.

**IACC Easy Read Toolkit**

The IACC is a group that advises the government on how to spend autism research money. Before each of their meetings, the IACC collects comments from members of the public - and we can use these public comments to tell the IACC what kinds of autism research are important to us. But the process for sending in a comment can be confusing, and many people don't know that they can use public comments to make their voices heard! That's why this year, we released a new Easy Read and plain language toolkit called "Autism Research and the IACC: Your voice matters!" The toolkit covers what the IACC is, different kinds of autism research, and how to use public comments to tell the IACC what research matters to you - all in an easy-to-understand format.

**Genetic Research Statement**

Since Autism Acceptance Month first began, the autistic community has made a tremendous cultural impact in terms of how our society views autism. But autism research has lagged behind. The research agenda is still dominated by biomedical “causation and prevention” research, including genetic research on autism. For Autism Acceptance Month 2022, ASAN released a statement on genetic research and autism. Written in plain language, this statement gives background information on autism research, lays out ASAN’s concerns about genetic research as applied to autism, and recommends safeguards to make sure that any genetic research on autism is done by and for the autistic community.

**#StopTheShock**

**Endorsing Andre’s Law**

Most residents at the Judge Rotenberg Center come from New York State. In May, ASAN endorsed the introduction of a bill in the New York state legislature that would ban New York State from sending people with disabilities to the Judge Rotenberg Center. The bill, “Andre’s Law,” is named in honor of Andre McCollins, a survivor of contingent electric shock and other forms of aversive conditioning at the JRC. Andre’s Law is a critical step towards closing this dangerous and abusive institution for good. We also held a day of action giving our grassroots in New York tools to help them make their voices heard in support of the bill.

**Fighting for Electric Shock Ban**

We have campaigned for years for Congress to finally use its power to #StopTheShock. This year, the House of Representatives passed the Food and Drug Amendment Act of 2022 (HR 7667) with a provision that would ban the use of the electric skin shock devices at the Judge Rotenberg Center. This is the first time Congress has ever moved to end this torture. Though the Senate neglected to include the ban in the final legislation, we'll keep fighting for the ban to make its way through Congress and onto the President’s desk. Keep an eye on our Action Alerts for opportunities to push Congress to end electric shock torture through its end-of-year omnibus bill.

**No HCBS Misuse**

Funding for Home- and Community-Based Services is for exactly that - supportive services that we receive in our homes and communities. We learned of one state that was misusing HCBS money to send several residents to the JRC. We alerted the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services about what was happening, and the state is now transitioning everyone back home.
Disabled lives are worth saving. Yet this year, we had to push back against multiple actions by the CDC that betrayed a fundamental lack of respect for the needs of the disability community. In January, we helped organize a letter to CDC Director Walensky with many disability organizations to express our collective outrage at callous comments she made suggesting that the CDC views the deaths of people with disabilities as expected, inevitable, and less tragic than the deaths of nondisabled people—a view reflected in many of the CDC’s pandemic policies. These policies included March’s rollback of crucial pandemic protection guidelines, a choice we also joined partner organizations in responding to with a letter outlining the dire threat these rollbacks pose to our safety and to an equitable pandemic recovery that centers the most at-risk communities.

As part of our ongoing work to improve access to information about COVID-19, we released several new accessible resources this year in both English and Spanish, including: “What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccine and booster shots”, “Immuno-compromised People and the Vaccine”, “What you need to know about the Omicron variant and the COVID-19 vaccine”, “What you need to know about COVID-19 and wearing a mask”, “Why you need a second shot”, and “What do the CDC’s new COVID-19 Community Level mean for me?”, which also had an accompanying webinar.

After a fight as long as the pandemic itself, we celebrated the HHS’s new guidance about the civil rights of people with disabilities in hospitals during the pandemic! The guidance talks about crisis standards of care, reasonable accommodations, supports in hospitals, and more. This guidance is vital for people with disabilities to ensure our access to health care benefits and services. Advocates, including ASAN, have been pushing for this guidance for over a year, and we are glad to see it released.

The U.S. medical system discriminates in many different ways. We’ve seen the effects of that discrimination during the pandemic. As part of our work around COVID-19, we held a webinar about medical discrimination during the pandemic that addressed how the U.S. medical system discriminates against people with disabilities, people of color, and elderly people; how ASAN and other organizations have been fighting against this discrimination; and how you can fight against this discrimination in your local community.

In early February, ASAN and other disability rights organizations met with Secretary Becerra about how the Department of Health and Human Services can better serve and center people with disabilities in the response to the pandemic. We submitted a follow-up letter detailing our recommendations in several policy areas key to achieving an equitable COVID-19 recovery that centers the disability community. Among other priorities, we recommended expanding research into and support for people with long COVID; issuing guidance on accessibility in telehealth services; and increasing access to high-quality masks, testing, vaccines, therapeutics, and information.

Achieving Equitable COVID-19 Recovery

Medical Discrimination Webinar

New HHS Guidance

Pushing Back Against the CDC

New Accessible Resources
Reproductive Justice

Expanded Issue Tracker

Our Action Center's Issue Tracker is home to thorough plain language overviews of current issues of importance for our community. This year, we expanded the Issue Tracker, adding a new section about Reproductive Justice that includes pages about bodily autonomy and the right to privacy, abortion, parenting, sex education, birth control, and sexual and reproductive health care.

Bodily autonomy, privacy, and access to abortion all matter for people with disabilities. There has been a lot of information circulating about Roe v Wade and Dobbs v Jackson, but much of it has been inaccessible. That's why this year we released "Our Bodies, Our Rights: What's Going On at the Supreme Court?", an Easy Read toolkit covering these important Supreme Court cases and their impacts, bodily autonomy and why it matters, self-determination, reproductive justice, and more. Our policy team also hosted three webinars to help explain Dobbs v Jackson and why it matters, alongside a legal memo detailing Dobbs' implications for other rights, including marriage rights, housing rights, and others.

Combating Misinformation

It's easier than ever to find and share information on social media. That also means it's easier than ever for disinformation to spread on these platforms. In July, we signed on to a coalition letter urging TikTok, Twitter, Facebook/Instagram, and YouTube to stop the spread of and cease profiting from dangerous medical disinformation about abortion on their platforms. The letter calls on the companies to take similar steps to those they took when combating COVID-19 disinformation.

White House Meeting

Our Executive Director Julia Bascom attended a meeting at the White House alongside other leaders of the disability community to discuss how access to reproductive health care, including abortion, is shaped by disability status and underscored the importance of bodily autonomy, self-determination and health equity in the conversation.

Equity Plan Updates

Changes to Autism Campus Inclusion

Last year, we outlined priorities for increasing equity in our annual Autism Campus Inclusion (ACI) leadership training, including increasing recruitment outreach for both attendees and presenters of color and assessing and updating training content to incorporate a strong foundation of anti-racism, equity, and inclusivity. We set out to be more intentional about how ACI fosters leadership development, and changes are already underway. Over 60% of this year's class of ACI participants were students of color, a higher percentage than previous years. We've also begun to find ways to embed an equity lens throughout the program's schedule. One small example is how we've updated our framework for writing good advocacy campaign goals; previous years' presentations included 5 criteria, such as whether a goal is specific and achievable—our new materials incorporate two that were missing: whether a goal is equitable and inclusive. We've also expanded the curriculum with new presentations, including History of the Self Advocacy Movement in the US, which discusses the work of several self-advocates of color around topics like deinstitutionalization and HCBS and how that work is foundational for the work we do today, and Media and Press Strategies, which provided another opportunity to include more panelists of color to discuss their work and areas of expertise.

Collecting Community Feedback

Community feedback, outreach, and impact are key topics in our equity plan. In order to better meet the needs of our grassroots, we first outlined a number of ways we would begin seeking input from the community that we could then incorporate into our work. We have already begun implementing new methods of gathering feedback, beginning with our 2021-2022 end of the year community survey. Our redesigned survey invited respondents to tell us their thoughts about the equity plan, the work ASAN is and should be doing, what barriers there are to accessing our work, and more. By designing the survey to be more open-ended, we were able to gather many more in-depth, nuanced comments from our grassroots in their own words - feedback that we couldn't have gotten from the survey in previous years. It was also the first survey that included optional demographic questions, giving us valuable insight about who we're currently reaching. We've also added the website and resource feedback tools mentioned in the equity plan. These tools let us quickly and easily gather direct, immediate feedback from users of our resources and website that is already proving invaluable.

Spanish Translation Work

It's very important to ASAN that our resources are accessible to as many members of our community as possible. Much of our work in this area has focused on cognitive accessibility, but there are other barriers to address - like linguistic accessibility. In our equity plan, we specifically highlighted our long-term commitment to developing our own capacity for resource translation, as well as our immediate commitment to prioritizing Spanish translation work with significant involvement of Spanish-speaking autistics. We're proud to have partnered with Mi Cerebro Atípico, a collective by and for Spanish-speaking autistics, to develop the official Spanish translation of our book Welcome to the Autistic Community. Mi Cerebro Atípico created the first Spanish draft of the book, and in March, we held a 3-day Spanish translation summit, giving native Spanish speakers a paid opportunity to review the translation of Welcome to the Autistic Community in order to make it as accessible, accurate, and culturally responsible as possible. The summit also served as a way to set the groundwork for future translations by putting together a shared list of Spanish translations for commonly-used words and phrases, discussing gender-neutral language in Spanish, and other activities. We also published a number of Easy Read and plain language toolkits and videos this year about topics related to COVID-19, each available in both English and Spanish.

Supporting WHPA

As part of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, we urged Senators to vote in favor of S. 4132, The Women's Health Protection Act of 2022. The WHPA's Rights, we urged Senators to vote in favor of S. 4132, adding a new section about Reproductive Tracker,  adding a new section about Reproductive Justice that includes pages about bodily autonomy and the right to privacy, abortion, parenting, sex education, birth control, and sexual and reproductive health care.

It's easier than ever to find and share information on social media. That also means it's easier than ever for disinformation to spread on these platforms. In July, we signed on to a coalition letter urging TikTok, Twitter, Facebook/Instagram, and YouTube to stop the spread of and cease profiting from dangerous medical disinformation about abortion on their platforms. The letter calls on the companies to take similar steps to those they took when combating COVID-19 disinformation.

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Last year, we outlined priorities for increasing equity in our annual Autism Campus Inclusion (ACI) leadership training, including increasing recruitment outreach for both attendees and presenters of color and assessing and updating training content to incorporate a strong foundation of anti-racism, equity, and inclusivity. We set out to be more intentional about how ACI fosters leadership development, and changes are already underway. Over 60% of this year's class of ACI participants were students of color, a higher percentage than previous years. We've also begun to find ways to embed an equity lens throughout the program's schedule. One small example is how we've updated our framework for writing good advocacy campaign goals; previous years' presentations included 5 criteria, such as whether a goal is specific and achievable—our new materials incorporate two that were missing: whether a goal is equitable and inclusive. We've also expanded the curriculum with new presentations, including History of the Self Advocacy Movement in the US, which discusses the work of several self-advocates of color around topics like deinstitutionalization and HCBS and how that work is foundational for the work we do today, and Media and Press Strategies, which provided another opportunity to include more panelists of color to discuss their work and areas of expertise.

Combating Misinformation

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Notes: ASAN regularly receives multiple multi-year grants which are paid out over the course of several years. The IRS, however, requires that all funding must be reported the year it is awarded, as opposed to the year it is actually spent. This can make our funding appear unbalanced year-to-year. These numbers are from our 2021 Form 990.
Our members make it possible for us to quickly mobilize in response to attacks on the civil rights of disabled people. Join us as a member by visiting autisticadvocacy.org/join

To make a tax-deductible donation to the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, go to autisticadvocacy.org/donate

Shop online at the ASAN store at autisticadvocacy.org/shop

To give by mail, make a check payable to Autistic Self Advocacy Network and send it to: P.O. Box 66122 Washington, DC 20035

We rely on our grassroots. You can view current and past action alerts at autisticadvocacy.org/action, or get them sent straight to your inbox by signing up at autisticadvocacy.org/newsletter

Thank you to everybody who volunteered to be a Day of Mourning vigil site coordinator, a proxy caller, or to help us in another way. We also want to thank our focus group editors and everybody who joined our advocacy campaigns throughout the year.

ASAN is very proud to be financially supported by so many members of our community. We’re incredibly grateful to each of you for supporting us, not just with your actions, but with your hard-earned money for the past 16 years. Each and every donation, no matter how large or small, makes it possible for us to continue fighting for equal rights for all people with disabilities. Thank you to our sustaining donors, who set up monthly recurring donations to support ASAN and the work we do. Your ongoing support plays a big role in both the plans we make and the projects we can take on every year.
In Memoriam

Teighlor McGee
March 7, 1998-April 2, 2022

We commemorate the life of our Teighlor McGee, ASAN staff member and cofounder of the Black Disability Collective, who leaves behind a legacy of radical care and advocacy for all members of their community, especially for Black, sick, and disabled people. We work to honor Teighlor’s legacy through our commitment to centering the most marginalized members of the autistic and disabled communities in everything we do.