

Disability Matters – Advocacy Matters

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

Hate Crimes

It's been a horrific week of bias motivated crime in our country Joyce culminating with an act of domestic terrorism that targeted a Squirrel Hill neighborhood synagogue. That hate filled act took the lives of 11 individual worshipers and wounded 6 others. Included in the dead were 2 brothers with intellectual disabilities

In addition, there was a hate crime in Louisville that targeted African Americans. A witness who encountered the suspect in the Kroger parking lot said the shooter told him "whites don't shoot whites."

I know all of us and, including your listeners, extend our sympathy to the families and friends of those killed.

Our nation also experienced mail bombings targeting political leaders and the news media.

Hate filled speech is on the rise. I know that we all stand with our African American, Jewish, LGBTQ, Asian, Muslim, and Hispanic colleagues to speak out

against hate and hate crimes which have no place in our society.

The FBI collects data on hate crimes. That information comes from local law enforcement. In 2016, there were 6,121 hate crimes reported nationwide. Of those, 1.2% were based on disability. 57.5% were based on race/ethnicity.

#AdvocacyMatters and it is important that we support each other against all forms of hate and report hate crimes if it happens to us. To report hate crimes you must report first the crime to local law enforcement and then include any information that indicates the crime was bias motivated.

We won't forget David and Cecil Rosenthal. 2 of the 11 individuals who died in the Pittsburgh shooting. Brothers who received their supports through ACHIEVA in Pittsburgh and experienced a life of inclusion through the Tree of Life Synagogue. May their memory be a blessing.