NARRATOR: At home

At work.

At school.

This is how I want to live my life.

WOMAN: This is what I want for my child.

ANOTHER WOMAN: This is how I want

other people to see me.

NARRATOR: Like everyone, people with disabilities

want the right to go to school,

get a good job,

make their own choices,

and contribute to the community.

But throughout our history

expectations have been low,

obstacles have been thrown in the way,

and opportunities taken away.

To make sure that doesn't happen, we need lots of tools

good laws

well-trained teachers, clinicians

solid research, innovative services.

That's why Congress created a network of centers

that focus on disability issues.

The centers do their work under many different names

and together they form the

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Or AUCD.

AUCD Members build bridges between the community

and universities,

making sure great ideas and new information

are shared between people with disabilities,

their families and friends,

lawmakers, doctors, teachers, and more.

Around the country and around the world.

It all started in 1962.

President John F. Kennedy

assembled a panel of experts to

make recommendations on what the

federal government could do for people with

intellectual disabilities.

People like his sister, Rosemary.

The president urged

Congress to pass a law to create 19 university-based

centers focused on intellectual disability.

By harnessing the resources and ingenuity of the

entire country and giving voice

to people with disabilities, their needs

could be addressed.

JOHN F. KENNEDY: The time has come for a great national effort.

New medical, scientific, and social tools and insights are now available.

I am hopeful that beginning today, this country will move in this field so vital to the welfare of our citizens.

NARRATOR: Today, the AUCD networks spans 125 centers and

programs nationwide,

with at least one in every state and territory.

AUCD members are people with disabilities

and family members.

who lead the disability community.

We are teachers and faculty members

who educate futures professionals to serve

people with disabilities.

we are students,

therapists,

and doctors

who provide exceptional clinical and

community-based services

when families need it most.

AUCD Members

are researchers who find the next scientific

breakthrough that will change lives.

We are advocates,

advancing policies and supporting communities to

meet s individual needs.

AUCD members make up a network that

is growing leaders and driving change.

By working as a network

AUCD members learn from each other,

share knowledge and expertise,

and help and empower people with disabilities

across the country.

Want to learn more?

Find the AUCD member in your state or territory

and receive the latest disability news and policy updates

from AUCD at www.aucd.org

Follow us on social media

@AUCDNetwork on Facebook and

@AUCDNews on Twitter

Produced by Rooted in Rights, a project of Disability Rights Washington.