



In Memory of Eunice Kennedy-Shriver

Dear Kennedy and Shriver Families,

On behalf of all of the more than 50 Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation Public Policy Fellows, we wish to extend our deepest sympathies at the passing of Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Mrs. Shriver was without question an incomparable visionary and leader, and a role model for those of us who served as Kennedy Fellows. With an unparalleled determination, she worked tirelessly to create a world of opportunity for all individuals with intellectual disabilities.

We are also writing to express our genuine appreciation for the gift the Kennedy Foundation gave us, and our commitment to continue along the path that Mrs. Shriver so admirably showed us. Mrs. Shriver clearly was the driving force behind the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation and its many activities, and it is our sincere hope that the Kennedy family can be proud of the Kennedy Fellows as an extension of her work and ambition. Mrs. Shriver presented us with the opportunity and inspiration to change the direction of our nation, as she had done on innumerable occasions. We will always cherish this legacy.

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Public Policy Fellows have influenced policy, created law, instilled vision, and changed the way many individuals and organizations view people with disabilities.

The vision that Mrs. Shriver shared with us was the basis for all these accomplishments. She always wanted more progress toward the vision and challenged us to reach higher and achieve more. Drawing upon the example of the founding of the Special Olympics, Mrs. Shriver believed that one person could make a difference and expected us to follow in her footsteps.

This will continue to be our charge. As Kennedy Fellows, each of us accepted the challenge Mrs. Shriver presented us. Our efforts to improve the world for people with intellectual disabilities did not stop when our fellowships ended. The mission to create a world that provides equality and justice for all is a core value that we share. As Mrs. Shriver would say, we need to assure opportunities for people with disabilities because they deserve it. It hardly seems possible for us to adequately thank the Kennedy family for the dedication they have shown to people with intellectual disabilities and their allies. It is difficult to put into words the depth of our gratitude, but by our actions, we have dedicated our lives to continue the critical work Mrs. Shriver began. We are all committed to continuing the Kennedy vision to assure equality of opportunity for all, especially for people with intellectual disabilities.

Sincerely,

Joseph P Kennedy, Jr. Foundation Public Policy Fellows