

My name is Agnes McCray and I am a mother of three sons and a human rights advocate of Central New York who happens to have extravagant differences (which is just my term for disabilities). Even though I am from the Caribbean in South America, I have called Syracuse my home and raised my family here. I am connected in every way possible to my community as I fight for the rights of others across all spectrums. I have worked with former County Executive Joannie Mahoney on her Education Task Force, as well as Mayor Miner's Citizen's Cabinet. My career in advocacy extends back to the 80s when other disability rights advocates and myself chained ourselves to Centro buses to gain access to public transit. For my efforts in advocating for human rights for all, I have received various accolades, including the 2006 NYS Senate Achievers Award (given to me personally by Senator John DeFrancisco), the 2009 SANYS Martin Luther King Jr. Award, the 2012 WCNV Makers: Women Who Make America Award (of which I was the first person with extravagant differences to receive the award), and the 2012 Onondaga County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award (of which I was the first non-lawyer civilian to receive the award). My interview with the StoryCorps is in The Library of Congress, and recently, my testimony was used in support of the New All-Inclusive New York Health Act, and is featured in the bill's promotional material.