



LITTLE PEOPLE OF AMERICA
Empowerment • Awareness • Community

LPA Press Release – January 30, 2025

Little People of America, along with other disability advocacy organizations, are concerned and disgusted by the recent remarks that President Trump and Pete Hegseth made after a deadly mid-air collision yesterday evening - blaming DEI as the reason.

Trump's statement that those with disabilities—singling out dwarfism amongst the list—are not qualified to perform jobs at the FAA is harmful and demonstrably false. Discriminatory statements like these continue to dismantle the already difficult task of educating the public about disability equity.

Insinuating that individuals with disabilities are less capable and not "the best and brightest" flies in the face of ADA and the protections afforded applicants for jobs they are qualified for.

Merit based employment is not contradictory to DEI opportunities for applicants. A diverse workforce brings a wide range of perspectives that ultimately strengthen institutions and contributes to the mission of public safety. The work of people with disabilities at agencies like the FAA is vital. The suggestion that their inclusion somehow undermines the FAA's effectiveness is not only inaccurate but dismissive of their value as employees and applicants.

LPA remains, as always, committed to fostering an environment and a community of equality and opportunity for those in the disability community and wholly supports DEI initiatives. As an advocacy organization committed to promoting equality and opportunity for people with disabilities, we call on all public figures to engage in thoughtful, respectful discussions that uplift all individuals, rather than perpetuate division or discrimination. People with disabilities deserve respect, dignity, and equal opportunities.

We encourage our community and the public to continue advocating for the inclusion and recognition of all individuals, particularly those who are often marginalized, and to reject rhetoric that diminishes their worth.