



Hello,

My name is Sneha Dave and I am the executive director of the Health Advocacy Summit. The Health Advocacy Summit is a nonprofit organization that facilitates advocacy events and yearlong programming for young adults ages 13-30 with chronic and rare illnesses. HAS is led entirely by young adults with chronic and rare illnesses. Within three years of operation, the HAS was supposed to be facilitating summits in six states as well as various other programming pre-pandemic. The topics of the Summits include vocational rehabilitation, navigating health insurance, mental health, and other location-specific topics. Currently, the Summits and additional initiatives of the HAS are supported by the Helmsley Charitable Trust, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and the American Association of People with Disabilities. Current components of the Health Advocacy Summit include facilitating virtual events, weekly meetings, civic engagement programs, and a campaign for high-risk students.

Higher education has not always been flexible for students with chronic conditions. Often times, a student is independent in their own healthcare for the first-time during college. Young adulthood defines so much for the future of a young adult with a chronic condition. It is imperative that there is more advocacy for students with chronic conditions in higher education. We are in full support of Senate Bill 147 to create a task force on higher education for students with chronic conditions. As more and more kids are being diagnosed with chronic conditions, there must be more conversations and infrastructure developed for this growing demographic in higher education.

Sincerely,

Sneha Dave

Executive Director



