

It Takes Courage to Advocate with Integrity

By Paulette Hunter

*Everyone can be great...
because anyone can serve.
You don't have to have a college degree to serve.
You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve.
You only need a heart full of grace.
A soul generated by love (Martin Luther King, Jr.)*

They hire you to keep you quiet.
Finally, they give your child services/funds to keep you quiet.
But you feel that your **integrity** cannot be stopped

So be prepared.....because

They call you negative
 When you ask for accountability
They call you negative
 When you ask for transparency
They call you negative
 When you review the history of the problem
They call you negative
 When you ask the hard question
They call you negative
 When you ask to break down the silo
They call you negative
 When you speak about the lack of services
They call you negative
 When you refused to be a token parent

Always SMILE when adversity approaches you and CLIMB THAT WALL.
Remember that obstacles are OPPORTUNITIES
 for you to evaluate the route but not the vision.
Keep your eyes on the end result
Keep your eyes on the VISION....

Paulette Hunter is an advocate and parent of a child with special needs from northeastern Pennsylvania. She read her poem at a recent meeting of the OMHSAS Children's Advisory Committee.