

My name is Kris Medina and I am here to tell you the importance of Facilitated Communication (FC) in my life. When I was in second grade, I was introduced to supported typing. I questioned if this could be real, if someone was actually attempting to unlock my voice.

Typing is my voice and has been since I was very young. Living my life socializing in a much different way than the rest of my peers had its challenges. Typing opened peoples understanding of who I was and opened many doors to new opportunities.

Raising awareness to Presumption of Competence is vital to my work. People should never be looked upon as empty spaces. Presuming that one is not intelligent, just because of outward appearances is a tragedy. Judging ones understanding by their form of communication or ability to socialize is deadly.

Not having access to communication is like locking up my voice and throwing away the key. All of this has ripple effects on my emotional and mental wellbeing.

Without a way to communicate I would not be a college graduate from the University of Vermont. I would not be

able to testify to legislators on the importance of investing in our workforce and my intelligence would be locked away.

Typing is the only way that my intelligence can be unlocked, it is the only way my deep emotions can be told, and it is the only way to make my life whole.

Kristofor Medina
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