

Third Time's A Charm
By James Jones of Metropolitan Family Services
Inspired by Mental Health Rally on May 19, 2016 at the Thompson Center

In the closing line of my last essay, I said “they can’t keep us down if we keep up the fight”. Keeping up the fight is of the utmost importance to us as it should be primal to them. They cannot continue to pay lip service and very little else. There has to be a grip behind the lip. We’ve heard everything from 40 acres and a mule to a chicken in every pot. From FDR’s New Deal, to John F. Kennedy’s New Frontier, from Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society, to Ronald Regan’s Trickle Down Theory.

Through it all we have remained staunch and steadfast. But now we must show the lawmakers the true muscle behind our movement, as time is running out. Not only must we show them solidarity but voltage. Not only are we resourceful, but up to the challenge as they try to deprive us our basic human rights. This is why our unification to the lawmakers must show an impenetrability that vies with our dedication, care, and respect as human beings. Like the man said “if you stand for nothing you will fall for anything”. Even if their actions seem like a blatant disregard for our needs we must respond with no weakening by acrimony, but the strengthening of our advocacy. Why does our government have so little for the many in need but so much for war and killing? There is so much more for the taking of life but so little for the giving. We would have less people asking for spare change or pushing loose squares if our lawmakers would change or be on the square. Somewhere along the line of all their bureaucracy many have lost the compassion for the quality of our lives and retarding the progress of our recovery.

“Soon” is not the time to stifle this trend. If we rest on our laurels now, we stand the chance of not realizing we could be resting for the rest of our lives. We must show our unyielding vitality, intestinal fortitude, resiliency, and a solid steel backbone to stand firmly for what we know is right for all our well beings. If those before us didn’t take a stand, we would not have the progress we have now. So our fight for pride, dignity, and integrity should make not only difference to us, but for the future generations to come.