Speaker 1:

The Disability & Philanthropy Forum presents Robin Wilson-Beattie, Disability and Sexuality Advocate.

Robin Wilson-Beattie:

When it comes to ableism within reproductive health, okay, one, we can go back to even looking at ... It's also going on now, where eugenics, basically where people have decided that people with disabilities should not have children, should not have families, and have their reproductive health rights taken away from them by being sterilized. There's so many different issues. There's racism involved with the the ableism, as well. And so it's regional, and you will find that, like for instance in the South, it was predominantly Black women that were sterilized. Right? But in California, you have Latino women and Native American women all over. And particularly when I'm talking about disability, not just physical disability, but also mental health, or if you have a child, getting it taken away.

Robin Wilson-Beattie:

So all of these things are related, but also particularly around sexuality, because ableism says that they don't think of people with disabilities as having sexuality, even though sexuality is a natural part of being human, just like disability is a natural part of the human condition. So you have where society tries to tell you that, "Oh, well, can you have sex? You supposed to have sex?" I had one time I was in a presentation and they were like, "Shouldn't you have a doctor's note or something?" Our medicalizing our bodies to the point to where we don't have this autonomy and agency, that's all ableism.

Speaker 1:

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