

Aspen Ideas: Health Closing Session

New Speaker: [inaudible]

New Speaker: it's critical that we gather up leaders to identify emerging needs, include new voices, showcase promising practices, and breakdown the barriers to progress. That is what the Aspen Institute is all about. That's what the Aspen ideas, health is all about. Activating change, making it impact, serving humanity and getting results. It's my first time attending aspen ideas festival. I can just summarize it. Set to meet. So many special people are addressing

New Speaker: difficult problems in such passionate ways. What inspires me is a diversity officer and how would they are presenting their ideas in a very innovative and engaging interactive way. And a, I like that. I'm going back to my home country to Egypt with new ideas, new perspective, and the open vision was the one,

New Speaker: I think that there are enough challenges in what we're facing, that we need a full team. And those ideas can come from any source. But we got things to learn from everywhere. And, and that's what's, uh, what's so powerful

New Speaker: about what aspen does. This is my fun stuff in Aspen. And as somebody who is a lawyer who comes in and find all these people were talking about [inaudible] James Madison, it's quite fantastic. It's eye opening and it's something that I would recommend to anyone who's working on helping them get to that. John sort of defend metal and ideas to do at their basketball. People that I would remember about, but it's also a chance to celebrate people. These are people who work really hard. They're in the trenches as a chance to see one another and

New Speaker: but this is a really important topic. This is the relationship with food, hell, medicine and nutrition. We need to establish the gluten framework for

New Speaker: the oversight and regulation of gene editing. This is not just poetry. This is a fundamental celebration of why we're different. We can completely eradicate deaths by suicide. So let's all work together to end this one for all this. It's been like super intense and that's just cause there's so many amazing people from different backgrounds, different stories all coming together for a common purpose. And I think that's really beautiful that you able to, you like people on the mountain. There's just so much that we still have [inaudible]. I think that I am already quite privileged to be here. Culture of health is a culture of freedom. The Aspen Institute believes that convenings like this one or essential to moving towards that vision of a free just and equitable society. [inaudible]

Ruth Katz: okay gang. That was our warm up.

Ruth Katz: Yeah,

Ruth Katz: and if that didn't warm you up, I hope the wonderful blankets from Mount Sinai does, and if that doesn't turn to your neighbor and give him a hug. I made it

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turn to your name or give him a hug. So good morning everybody. Good morning. Actually what you just saw was a quick snapshot that we hope nicely captures the flavor of the last three days as we head into this last official event at Aspen ideas health. Our thanks to our incredible video team who spent last evening having to choose from among hundreds and hundreds of special moments that we have all shared together. Please join me in thanking them for their very hard and very speedy work.

Ruth Katz: [inaudible]

Ruth Katz: over these past few days. I've greeted a lot of old friends and I've met many new friends, but for anyone that I haven't not yet connected with. I am Ruth Katz, director of the Health Medicine Society Program here at the Aspen Institute. We are honored to coproduce this opening event of the Aspen Ideas Festival in partnership with the Aspen Global Innovators Group, which is led by [inaudible] Peggy Clark, who kicked us off just a few days ago.

Ruth Katz: [inaudible]

Ruth Katz: I hope you all would agree aspen ideas. Health is not a conference, it's a community. This is the place where countless good ideas are hatched, even launched and where connections are made across disciplines, borders, personal experiences to advance the same noble goals, the passion and commitment, all of you share is what makes this event so special and so enduring. Before I introduce the speakers who will close our sixth annual convening, allow me just a few moments to offer some well earned thank you's and to reflect on some highlights. I think you can all agree that it takes great imagination, deep organizational skills and endless tenacity patients and yes, a great deal of humor to plan an event like this one to everyone who stayed with us through late nights and early mornings, late minute schedule changes and late breaking developments that we really just had to cover and our minute by minute weather watch. Thank you all.

Ruth Katz: Thanks to [inaudible].

Ruth Katz: Thanks too to the Aspen Institutes President and CEO Dan Porterfield. We are thrilled to have Dan with us for his second year as his vision for this remarkable organization takes shape. We are grateful as well to Elliot Gerson, the institute's Executive Vice President who has long recognized the value of devoting almost three days exclusively to health themes. Natalie Johnson, our team leader, deserves a double dose of gratitude for stepping in and shouldering a huge load with calm and grace and always with a smile and I know she's going to kill me. Where are you? Where are you Natalie? Where are you? She is somewhere but she has been incredible.

Ruth Katz: [inaudible],

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Ruth Katz: Katie Dresser, deg, Deb Cottingham and Jamie Davin I had been with us every step of the way, ever creative, always willing. Our summer staff, Cameron, Kenny, and tally Clark proved themselves and valuable and to the dozens and dozens of interns and volunteers, you make us look so very, very good. Thank you. All.

Ruth Katz: [inaudible]

Ruth Katz: Kitty Boone and killing Bredman lead and manage the entire ideals. Fast ideas festival and none of this would be possible without them. Their entire crew are genuine superstars. But a special shout out to Debra Murphy and the entire team at the better building. I will tell you the Tj at two days ago, 50% of all flights out of Denver for canceled. Every one of our speakers got in here because of Deborah and her team

Ruth Katz: [inaudible]. He also

Ruth Katz: relied very heavily on the Aspen meadows staff, led by Jason Maceachen and his folks. Of course, our underwriters deserve very special recognition, their generosity and brought interest in the themes of this event or the bedrock that we build on aspen ideas. Health simply would not exist without the mall. And how about that? Nixle of innovators, brainiacs, activists, artists, philanthropists, scientists, care providers, and so many others who shared their bold ideas with us. Each one of them is also committed to making our planet a healthier place. They talked to us about the microbiome, cancer breakthroughs and mental health about the me too movement, artificial intelligence, and the digital revolution about gene editing vaccines, the health benefits of a living wage, even about banking, CBD, and sex. Not that those last three things actually go together.

Ruth Katz: Okay,

Ruth Katz: and so much more. I know those kids talking about suicide prevention that hike up to the Maroon bells with the Moose sighting and that doctor Ruth film will linger long in our minds. CBC Director, CDC Director, Dr Robert Redfield private session with our scholars was a true inspiration, as was the conversation about what it will take to end aids, but most importantly, all of you or intensive audience deserve a vigorous round of applause. Your enthusiasm was infectious as well as your willingness to introduce yourself to a stranger as you just did today, to keep asking questions and to show up despite the rain and cold weather. You made us optimistic that together we can carve a path that leads us much closer to quality health for all. So please give yourselves a round of applause.

Ruth Katz: [inaudible]

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Ruth Katz: and now without further ado, let's head into our final event for Aspen Ideas, health 2019 we've got three provocative conversations for you and I'll let the moderators do most of the introductions, but just briefly, we opened with Senator Bill Cassidy from the great state of Louisiana who told me this morning that he really appreciates how hot it is in Louisiana.

Ruth Katz: Senator Cassidy will be interviewed by Elizabeth Cohen, senior medical correspondent at CNN, and an investigative journalists. Elizabeth is the author of the power patient empowered patient and I have to share with you the book subtitle, how to get the right diagnosis by the cheapest drugs, beat your insurance company and get the best medical care every single time. Next, Jonathan Capehart will moderate a dialogue between New York Times columnist David Brooks and Mark Friedman, who is all about building cross generational connections. Jonathan is an opinion writer for the Washington Post with the long list of journalists credentials. Finally, we will have an extraordinary discussion with three key players and what has become known as the climate kids lawsuit. The case is winding its way through the judicial system and I'll be honest, if someone trained in the law, I am most other folks never thought this case would get very far, but it is in fact winding itself through the judicial system and it has gotten very, very far. Maria, you know Hosa will moderate a conversation to help us understand how it got this far. Maria is anchor and executive producer of Latino USA and national public radio show and CEO of future [inaudible] medical group. I promise you these are going to be provocative and inspiring discussions. I think a perfect way to bring these three incredible days together to a close. So let's get started. Elizabeth, you're up first. Thank you all for being here and enjoy the rest of the show.

Speaker 4: [inaudible]

Elizabeth Cohen: you care which side you said he can't, which just fine. How's care at all? It's a little like preschool. We bring our own blankets.

Bill Cassidy: Lose sight is a lot colder than woods. So I came up here and I thought, do I need a cushion? Whoa.

Elizabeth Cohen: So that was

Elizabeth Cohen: great idea. And he suggested the cushion that I brought. Another great idea would have been pants.

Elizabeth Cohen: And you had that idea. You got that idea?

Bill Cassidy: Well, I don't normally wear something besides pants to work. Not My line of work.

Elizabeth Cohen: Okay, well let's just start right in. I've had the pleasure and the honor of being able to speak with senator Cassidy over the phone and we had a nice chat

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yesterday and General Agreement on three points that our system is broken in three ways, access to care at a reasonable price with good ab pumps. And senator you sent me a sentence that has just stayed with me. Every stakeholder has market power except the patient.

Bill Cassidy: And that quote does not for me. It is from the new director of the Center for, uh, so for the CBO, Congressional Budget Office, we're meeting with them recently about something and that's what he said. Everybody in this field has market leverage except the patient. Now, I will tell you, uh, I'm, uh, I worked for 30 years in the hospitals for the uninsured. Uh, my practice was those who were lower income, uh, and set up clinics for the working uninsured, uh, so that they wouldn't have to miss work in order to stand long lines in the, in the public hospital, but they could still continue to work. And I understand they don't have leverage and I would say we're not going to fulfill our goals of healthcare reform, which is access to affordable quality care until the patient is given. Is, is until the patient is the reason for the care, not an excuse for the bill.

Elizabeth Cohen: Can you give me a real world example where a patient did not, did not have, whether it was, was not transparency and so they were not a stakeholder.

Bill Cassidy: So, uh, first let me say there's a term activated patient your youtube about, you're very kind of open a conversation about what happened when your child was born, is an activated patient. You demanded the correct order be put in place. But there's other definitions as well. One is that the patient should have information. One law that president Trump recently signed into law outlawed so-called gag clauses where a pharmacy benefit manager would go to a pharmacist and by contract tell the pharmacist, you cannot tell the patient if it would be cheaper for her to pay cash as opposed to her deductible. Now you think, how much could that be? I mentioned it to a fellow. He kind of looks off. Yeah, my dark gave me some blood thinners. My copay was going to be \$190 I said, what? How much have I paid cash? The pharmacist says, well, because you asked me. I can tell you if you pay cash, it's only 70 now by contract you have the pharmacist had volunteered that he would've lost his contract with the PBM. The patient is being exploited in that situation and president Trump has signed a law outlawing that, so that's one example.

Elizabeth Cohen: Gotcha. Now, I certainly have asked doctors when they've referred me for a procedure or to another doctor or a member of my family to one of those things. What is this going to cost? Even when it's a procedure, they're going to do the procedure that my doctor is going to do and I say, what will this cost? And they, Elizabeth, I have no idea. Every insurance company is different. I don't know what your plan covers. You need to call your insurance company and of course we know how that goes. You try to call and you try to get a straight answer. I have tried it. It is very difficult. So let's talk about you. You talked about the patient comparison shopping in a seamless way. Tell me what that looks like.

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- Bill Cassidy: Know ideally you'd be able to scan a barcode and it would pull up that you can go here with doctor ordered a CT scan for your baby. You scan the Barcode and you look at it and you saying go right down the street right now and get the CT scan for \$2,500 or wait until Thursday at midnight and get it for 250 baby. You always wanted to stay up until midnight. We're going to stay up til midnight. You would know. Now, it is very difficult to understand that some insurance companies have a real time benefit analysis that they are deploying that correlates with your deductible and copay. But in these policies we have now where there might be a \$13,500 family. I think that cash price should be no. There is all kinds of resistance from providers. Somehow they'd send our own best interests that we not know the price.
- Bill Cassidy: It goes back to my first point until the patient is the epicenter and he and she is not. I use a feminine because women make 95% of the decisions on health care in our society until she is the epicenter. She is not going to get the services that she needs, but if she has a relationship with her physician and her physician says, I have scouted this out, you can go Thursday at midnight and get it for \$250 then she will get the best bargain. That's the activated patient in this case, activated in a patient physician relationship.
- Elizabeth Cohen: So the technology to do that, to build an app where I can say I need a colonoscopy. I live in this zip code. Uh, tell me the different prices with the different practitioners. That technology of course exists and has for many years, but insurance companies have not, have not done that. Yeah. There is no app for that and there's an app for everything. So why have they not done it?
- Bill Cassidy: There's an evolving now and there are websites, but let's just imagine, could there be an Amazon prime health? Yeah, I bet you there could be. Let's face it, it's probably already being planned. Okay. Where they'd gone out and found out what it would cost for your colonoscopy at this site versus another
- Elizabeth Cohen: for your insurance, which I think is crucial
- Bill Cassidy: for your insurance. But increasingly with, uh, with health savings accounts and HRA accounts, it may be that your insurance doesn't pay for a portion of it. And it may be that if you get a cash price, it is better than what your insurance can do.
- Elizabeth Cohen: That is true. But for many Americans, still insurance matters. I mean, you're absolutely right, but it's not. Yeah.
- Bill Cassidy: And for insurance it's a preventative. So that might be covered anyway. So it might be a bad example. But by the way, this works, you know how much lasik surgery costs most likely because there's a billboard in your community that says Lasix, \$825 per eye, a little bit more for a stigmatism so you can actually give a cash price. And over time you've seen that price come down and

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outcomes improve by direct communication of what that price would be to you. This system works. It just has not been deployed.

Elizabeth Cohen: But again, why haven't they done it? They could have done this years ago. You're talking to the wrong fellow. Okay. What do you think? I wanna know what you think?

Bill Cassidy: Uh, I don't think that there's been a push for it. Uh, you can see that price transparency is making its headway. I think there will be a momentum for it. President Trump is signing executive orders into place this week to begin to push more Ford. But there are significant pushback from the folks who are currently in the industry against revealing prices. I go back, if the patient doesn't have the power, they're better off because they don't have to tell you that it's cheaper to get your colonoscopy at the ambulatory surgical center. Maybe \$1,500 all in versus the hospital, it'd be \$3,500 all in both in network, but one substantially cheaper. If you had 10% coinsurance, it's Aha. You know, a 150 here and 350 there it is in their interest for you not to know that is wrong.

Elizabeth Cohen: So if we had price transparency and if the patient was at the center, would that cure the problems that exist with our healthcare system today?

Bill Cassidy: Price transparency is one aspect of the patient having the knowledge that she or he needs in order to make their best decision. But I do think you begin to deflate cost once the patient is armed with that information. It happens in every other segment of our society. Why would it not happen in healthcare? But there's other laws to, for example, that tilt against, we as the patient's pharmaceuticals are commonly arbitrating laws meant to encourage innovation in order to discourage competition. And by discouraging that competition, we pay more. Uh, now, um, and I can go through the examples of that, but there's a progesterone injection. I'm not an ob, but my ob friends tell me used to be gotten from a compounding pharmacy given to women in pregnancy if they were at risk for preterm are for abortion. Um, and so this injection would cost two to \$300 over the course of a pregnancy if gotten from a compounding pharmacy, one company went out and put their name on a brand using FDA laws that then gave them exclusivity charge 10,000, \$700 for that same medicine. Now that is a law passed to protect consumers but being used injurious the patient is not empowered. It is the law that is empowered in those that can arbitrage it and that is wrong.

Elizabeth Cohen: What would, what would you say when the pharmaceutical companies, this is the response I usually get when I bring up as an example. Like that is a, this money is needed for R and D,

Bill Cassidy: R and d for up compound that's currently being made by compounders. And every now and then you have to laugh. There's a drug called Duexis and Duexis is a combination of Pepsid in Motrin to over the counter drugs, which happened, I happened to take them both of them this morning. Uh, and you

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look great. So yeah, so, um, if you bought them over the counter as I did at cost you 20 bucks for a month's supply, if you buy on a sufficient volume, um, oh, I wish you to look this up because this is so unbelievable. If you get them through Medicare part D, I think it's 4,200 bucks a month. I think I remember that correctly. Or maybe it's 2,400 bucks a month, either one. But you've got the point, there was not r and d there, there was minimal r and d. Now, in fairness to the company, it may be the PBM that is driving up that cost, but who is paying you and I the Medicare beneficiary and, and they have a patent on it. And a law passed to promote innovation is being used, be an arbitrage to extract more money from the patient and more money from the taxpayer. And until we get the patient at the center of our priorities, that sort of thing will happen.

Elizabeth Cohen: I was speaking with some of your constituents about your ideas. There's a group called Trig, Mamas of Louisiana. They're headquartered in baton rouge and they said, this is great. All of this price transparency and an APP that would take care of this would be terrific. But about half of us are on Medicaid, about half of all children with medically complex, uh, uh, diseases or, or, or, uh, are on Medicaid. And they said, we have very little choice. We're on Medicaid. So it doesn't really help to compare things because our choices are so limited. And again, half of children with medically complex problems are on Medicaid. So they're not the exception. Uh, what, what would you tell these moms?

Bill Cassidy: So there are other aspects to having the patient have the power. One aspect is the power of knowing price transparency. Another is having laws, um, that are not able to be arbitrage to our disadvantage. A third might be to have centers of excellence. As it turns out, Medicaid patients typically have worse outcomes than the privately insured, the Medicare patient and even the uninsured in some studies. Now, the idea that Medicaid now by the way, for 25 to 30 years, my primary practice was taking care of the uninsured and those on Medicaid. This was my life's work. And so I am not prejudicial. I am merely observing and quoting data that is published in peer review journals. And so if you have bad outcomes, that begs the question why now? It may be there is where you want to have coordinated care. And in that coordinated care by the uh, insurance company, you can make sure that that child receives the best that she can receive.

Bill Cassidy: Now. But let me give you an example of another federal law which is broken under current law. If a child or one of us is on Medicaid and the managed care companies saves 10% over the course of the year, they manage the care. It's better care. You get a better outcome. The child comes to the emergency room less often and so the expenditure decreases by 10% under current law, the federal government takes back the federal government's share of that anywhere from 90 to 50% wow. You're a managed care company. If you saved money, you lose 90 to 10% of that which you saved. Guess what happens? Money has never saved. It is the clear incentive that money is never saved, so what could we do differently? Something that I proposed in my legislation,

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Cassidy, is that the state would receive a certain amount of money and how much you receive per patient would be on how sick that patient is.

Bill Cassidy: Louisiana has lots of folks with HIV, so HIV patients cost more. You get more. If the company saved, if the managed care companies save dollars, the federal government wouldn't take that money back. The money would stay with the state. The managed care company would keep it with the provision so that they would use it in healthcare. So for example, if my state has a high prevalence of HIV, the managed care company could use it to decrease the transmission of HIV longterm. You save money not by slashing rates, which can be counterproductive, but by decreasing disease burden, now that is a better way to save money. So going back to the case of the trake children, you would want to not only incentivize coordinated care, but you would want to reduce the penalties associated with them coordinating so well that outcomes improve and thereby you disincentivize saving money.

Elizabeth Cohen: Okay. So let me ask you a two part question, one of which is the question I already asked. Would this kind of price transparency with the terrific app fully open and transparent, would it help these mothers whose children are on Medicaid as so many of these children? Yeah,

Bill Cassidy: well it's a medicaid as there different. So we have different sites.

Elizabeth Cohen: He's still there on Medicaid, so it's not like there's some slim little,

Bill Cassidy: so there's different segments to our, to our healthcare economy. There's commercial insurance. And I include in there the affordable care act exchanges and that's where, and there's the including there the cash and that would be we're price transparency really works. There's Medicare where price transparency could really be helpful. Medicaid is more of a set price menu and so in that case the Medicaid recipient with few exceptions is not exposed to out of pocket expense. So it might price transparency would not really apply to the Medicaid population. But what I mentioned about correcting the d, The incentive for dis coordinated care among managed care definitely applies to the Medicaid population.

Elizabeth Cohen: That brings me to another point that these moms made. They keep up with you, they follow your work and I sent them also some of the materials that you sent me and they said this is all terrific. All of these ideas are terrific, but they said, it reminded me of what, what's that old fairy tale of the kid who's trying to stop the dam? You know, we're going to try to do this for drug prices. We're going to try to do this for HIV. Patients were going to try to do this. You have something out for, um, kidney transplant recipients, um, that it's, they said, when are we going to say this system? You can't be patched up anymore. We've run out of hands. We need to re haul the system from its roots. What, what do you think about?

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Bill Cassidy: So a couple of things. Um, first it's easy to say that there's no silver bullet, but there might be silver buckshot. Now, I would argue that that silver buckshot should all have the role of empowering the patient and making sure the incentives are aligned for that patient to have the best outcome as opposed to incentives which are there for the stakeholders to maximize their profit. Now I will say I was in several great sessions during this time. One of the sessions I heard is the fellow was saying from Allegany health, I think if you go into a hospital CEO and say, we're going to decrease your revenue by 30%, they're going to leave me like what? So if you put forward a plan that aligns incentives that actually takes the dollars that we have now, but uses them in a more effective way, somebody's payroll, somebody whose income is going to be cut by some percent. And I can tell you it is a basic rule of politics that is going to drive folks out to lobby against that change. Now, sometimes that is an appropriate Lottie and sometimes it is merely rent seeking. But nonetheless, if we're going to get to the, if there is a silver bullet or if there's an amalgamation of those silver book, Silver Buckshots, my voice is trembling because the Lucite than it is

Elizabeth Cohen: to take only the prism of the patient does this regulation, which allows somebody to dumb the trademark, a drug which is available from a compound of 200 bucks and then to charge \$10,000 in the interest of the patient. Absolutely not. Something has to be done about that law. Um, and I could go on, but if there is a silver bullet or an amalgamation of silver Buckshot, make the patient the prism through which you look at the situation. So let's make the patient the prism through which you look at the situation. I want to pass on a question that these mommas as they call themselves, these mommas had for you. They want to know if they can sit down with you and meet with you and have a seat at the table and trying to change our healthcare system. These are, these are mothers of children who need 24 hour care. The sickest of the sick.

Bill Cassidy: Absolutely. And you know the fact that I continue to practice medicine all the way up into my senate career and again, I worked in a setting of the uninsured folks who would never be at a place like this. Folks who have to take public transportation across town as they go to the first of the two jobs that they've will work that day. And I'd always give them my card because it's easy for you and automate. It's easy for me to meet some of these wonderful people I've met here during the session. It's very difficult for them to meet me. But by going into the exam room, they met me and they told me their story. And so the patients of whom you are of whom you speak or the patients who might continue to see up until about a year ago. And I absolutely accept to see them.

Elizabeth Cohen: Okay. Well thank you. If I think that's a wonderful way to end it. Thank you so much.

Speaker 4: Thanks. [inaudible]

Jonathan C: [inaudible] maybe the lights will warm us up. All right. Are we all hooked up?

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Jonathan C: Okay, I think we're, we are all hooked up. Thank you all very much for sticking around for us and staying and staying warm. And Jonathan Kay, part of the Washington Post, MSNBC next to me is Mark Friedman, author of how to live forever and next to him is David Brooks among many things, the author of the Second Mountain. So in the little time that we have, because you both have big books about big ideas, I want to sit and get into a back and forth, not so much about health but about happiness because each of you comes that happiness from different perspectives. David, your book, the Second Mountain, um, is a great way to get into this. What's the first mountain and what's the second mountain?

David Brooks: Uh, the first mountain, his career. And the second mountain is what you do, what everyone's doing here, which is giving not about ego, but about giving back. I should say. I've never seen Jonathan and that scarf. Johnathan's, uh, appearance here is cognitively Yves Saint Laurent.

Jonathan C: Nope, wrong designer. But that's another discussion. Mind [inaudible] sponsored by the gap.

David Brooks: Let, let me, uh, the core point. I wanted to make it at this session. So we were talking about happiness at first to appreciate how central the emotions are to help and that every, every emotion has a physical manifestation there not just though thoughts, their physical and their in the body. And the distinction I'm making the book, uh, is between what you're shooting at in life. And in the first part of life, you're shooting it happiness, which is getting a promotion, winning a victory. Your team wins the Super Bowl, you achieve movement toward your goals and that's happiness. You feel the expansion of self on the second mountain. And this other moral system, uh, you're not really shooting for happiness. You're trying to be seized by joy. And Joy is not about the expansion of self, joyous about the uh, eraser of self. When you're so into your work, you're so into someone you love that did any sense of self consciousness just sort of fades away. Uh, and narcissist can feel happy cause they can win the presidency for example.

Jonathan C: [inaudible] but

David Brooks: no narcissists are incapable of feeling joy because the self never goes. And so just two quick examples if I could. I was driving home from a show idea, the news hour several years ago and I drove into my driveway on a Friday evening in the summertime and my three kids were out in the backyard and they were like 12, nine and four and they were playing with a ball and chasing each other across the yard. And they were giggling and rolling over each other and they were just having the greatest time. And the summer sun was coming in the trees. And for some reason my lawn looked perfect and I sat there in the car staring at the mirror. And time sort of spilled outside its boundaries. And I was overcome with a measure of joy that was better than anything you'll ever get at work. And it was not something I was doing.

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David Brooks: It was the pleasure of parents get and seeing their children glow. And that's a difference in station. And then if I could read one more thing, cause I now collect that cut out. When I read an account of joy, I cut it out and I keep it. So I just wanted to read one thing from Zadie Smith. So she was in a nightclub in London and she was a lost and she couldn't find her handbag. Uh, but suddenly a song from Gannon cutover a tribe called quest came over the sound system and she writes, what happens next? A real thin man with enormous eyes reached across the sea of bodies from my hand. He kept asking me the same thing over and over again. Are you feeling it? I was. My ridiculous heels were killing me. I was terrified. I might die. And yet I felt similar. Taney slee overwhelmed with the light that can I kick? It should happen to be playing at this precise moment in the history of the world on this sound system and was now morphing into smells like teen spirit. I took the man's hand, the top of my head flew, flew away, we danced and dance. We gave ourself up to joy. And sometimes with our friends, we have these moments were, were seized by something. And my rule is joy is not something you aim for, but joy is the present you're giving for giving away your gifts.

Jonathan C: And one of the other wonderful quotes that I've seen you, I've heard you say, we should be shooting for joy, not just happiness. There's a difference between the two. And so for you, mark, you're coming at, uh, the pursuit of happiness from a different, from a different perspective. What is that?

Marc Freedman: Well, you know, I was going to talk about how bodies of research on happiness in both children and older adults converge and profound ways, but, but just picking up on what you're saying. Um, the, the most profound experience that I've had, uh, over the last 30 years doing this work. Um, and that's influenced everything. I've done since, uh, um, was in a medical setting. Um, and I was thinking about it. I just, Bill Cassidy was talking and so I'm going to skip over happiness and go right to joy to 30 years ago. I, uh, I was trying to find examples where older people were being in roles to connect with kids who are in need and discovered a program called the foster grandparents was part of the world and poverty and traveled around the country meeting older women and men who are working 20 hours a week, one on one with kids and deeply relational ways.

Marc Freedman: I ended up on the pediatrics ward of Maine Medical Center where I met two utterly unprepossessing women, Aggie Bennet and Louise Casey Aggie was the tall one. She's four 11, we'll use cases or 10. And he had retired, she'd been a waitress. Louisa had worked in a saw mill, Aggie, um, uh, went to the local senior center where they had, or making satin coathangers and she said she wanted to wear away, not rust away. And so I went to foster grandparents. They sent her to the pediatric ward. Uh, I showed up on Halloween, she was dressed as a tiger chasing kids around and she said, it's not a job, it's a joy. But William Blake has this beautiful line, joy and woe or woven fine. And as you can imagine on the pediatrics ward, that was very much the case. And, um, you know, imagine you're eight years old, you've got cancer, you're four hours away from

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home in an institutional setting and your parents have to leave because they have jobs as waitresses or working in a saw mill and three other kids they have to take care of.

Marc Freedman: And that's where ID and Louise came in and they became family to these kids. And, and there was a lot of joy and a lot of woe and, and um, one of, one story that I, you once told me was that a, about a girl named Susan who was 12, who had a congenital heart condition. She knew she didn't have long to live and she couldn't talk to her parents about it because it made them so profoundly upset. And so she talked to Aggie and when she did pass away, the parents called Agi in the middle of the night and told her she went to the funeral. And when the obituary came out in the paper, it said she was survived by her parents, her sister, and a foster grandmother, Egg Bennett. And

Jonathan C: there's another story that I've heard you tell. Um, I don't know which one it was, where there was a tall one or the short one, but in the pediatric ward, I believe it was a mother whose infant was dying and she made a request of the, of the facility, do not let my child die in a crib. She, she, she had to leave and she couldn't delay it any longer because she had three other children. And she had one request for the nurses when she left, which is that her baby would not die in a crib. And when the baby was dying, the head of the unit, a woman named sue fourth went to Aggie and said, um, where you hope this baby? And she, she did. And she's, I, you told me, she said that the baby didn't die in a crib. That baby died in my arms, but you know, um, uh, your heart broken, but you don't let them know it. And she, she felt this

Marc Freedman: deep sense of, of, um, I think it was a kind of joy. Um, and it was also, um, made, who was the founder of the gray panthers. A great rabble rouser is buried in my hometown of Philadelphia, uh, under a gravestone that says, here lies Maggie Kune under the only stone she left unturned.

Jonathan C: [inaudible]

Marc Freedman: but she said something else, which you said, we don't have a single person to waste. And this year, 2019, his first year in this country's history, you've got more people over 60 than under 18. And you know, we're wringing our hands, like it's a great comedy of the Atlantic. You know, the wonderful sponsor, this event ran an article a few years ago, uh, with the total becoming deaf shortage. Right? Um, but, but there's another way you look at, if you shift the lens from some of the things that, you know, occupy the headlines to these deeper emotional truths, um, uh, we're, we're a Washington, a potential, uh, uh, um, uh, exploding resource of love and care and relationship and enjoy.

Jonathan C: Well, I mean, as I was listening to both of you talk, the question that comes to my mind is why is joy so hard to find? Why is it so we all strive for it and we all feel like we never attain it. It's that prize we're always reaching for and never,

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never grasp it. You're both trying to get us there, but why can't we ever seem to get there? Yeah.

David Brooks: Well, at first, when an experiment that happened years ago in Israel, there was a daycare center where the parents were coming in late and it was a problem because the teachers had to stay. And so they, they imposed fines on the parents who came in late. And the number of parents who came in late doubled. And that's big because before it had been a moral responsibility or relational responsibility to do the teachers to show up on time. So they'd go home, but they turned it into an economic transaction. And so they turned off the moral and relational lens and they turned on the Economic Lens. And that's just a fundamental difference in outlook in the heart and the way we look at a situation. And I would say the health care system, is it a very effective system at moral and relational numbing and that it's, it's very hard to live within the system, like a lot of systems in our society with your heart wide open because the economic lens has been turned on.

David Brooks: I read a book called practical wisdom. I get embarrassed, shorts and somebody else. And there's a story in there that's relevant to the healthcare system, but it's about somebody trying to live in a countercultural manner within the hospital. And it's a hospital janitor named Luke and Luke clean rooms. And one of the rooms he cleaned on his floor was a kid who had gotten it done in to fight, fallen into coma that apparently he wasn't coming out of. And His dad sat vigil over him and look clean room everyday. But one day clean the room and the dad was out getting the smoke and later in the day the dad came up to Luke and said, you didn't clean my son's room. And so one mentality, which is frankly the economic mentality is I see my job as cleaning rooms. In that case you say to the dead, I did clean the room.

David Brooks: You were just out getting the smoke. The other mentality is my job is not cleaning rooms. My job is providing comfort and care to patients and their families, in which case you go back and clean the room a second time so that that can have the comfort of seeing you clean it. And so that's what he did. But it's super hard to keep that mentality in, in our world, frankly, in capitalism. I just wrote a book on how you should care about the theory, all things spiritual matters. I checked my damn Amazon ranking every 15 minutes.

Jonathan C: [inaudible] how you doing?

Marc Freedman: I stopped checking mine cause I don't know, exponential notation, the ego,

David Brooks: it goes away. And we live in a system that that makes it hard to live in the wide open way that people like Maggie can live.

Marc Freedman: You want to add to that before I get into loneliness? I mean this is maybe a little askew, but that the ways in which efficiency and humanity can be at art. So if you look at the research on, on what kids need, um, Urie Bronfenbrenner the

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great child development expert, cofounder of the headstart program was asked at the end of his life, you know. Okay. Urie Bronfenbrenner you written 20 books and thousand articles. What did you learn? What every child needs? At least one adult who's irrationally crazy about them. I love that quote. It's such a beautiful quote. And on the other end, you know, you've written about, uh, George Balance Research on, it's argued that at through the Harvard Study of adult development, happiness is love, full stop. And in later life, there's a direction for that connection and it's downhill. Older people who connect with younger people are three times as likely to be happy as those who fail to do so.

Marc Freedman: He says biology flows downhill. So if these, if the, if there's a natural convergence between what the generations need, why doesn't it happen? It's because we screwed things up magnificently under the banner of efficiency. We went from the beginning of the 20th century from being the most age integrated society in the world to the end of the century, to being the most age segregated. Uh, in the, in the 19th century, people didn't even know how old they were. We, the birthday song wasn't invented until 1934 and then we decided we were going to make things more efficient, oftentimes for the most uplifting reasons, universal school and child labor laws. We're going to show young people into schools, social security, the great social policy achievement of the West Century. But it led to older people leaving the workplace. Then we created a whole set of institutions, like senior centers and retirement communities and at that were just for older people. And in the end the twain stopped meeting. And is it any surprise that now we look back,

Jonathan C: we've got the epidemic of loneliness you've written about so eloquently and who are the two most lonely groups, older people and younger ones. It's crazy. Right? And this is a great segue because I wanted to talk about loneliness because you both get at it. Um, get at this issue in the one hand, if we were sort of age segregating, so we're separated, but then because of due to partisanship and technology and everything were separated from each other, no matter, no matter our age or no matter what slice of our, uh, of our demographic. So how do we, how do we end that? Is it as simple as, I guess as how this whole closing session started where the, the, um, the host said, turn to your neighbor and give them a hug. Is it as simple as, as embracing a stranger or is there something more fundamental that has to happen?

David Brooks: Yeah. First loneliness is the ultimate perversity because no one wants to be lonely and people are all like, they're lonely, separated from each other. It's just a perversity. No one is seeking this outcome. And so it's just bizarre to me. Uh, that is happening. But it's happening. And it's in the health care system, the famous solicitor general, not solicitor general surgeon. Surgeon General.

Jonathan C: Yeah.

Jonathan C: Where's your brain takes it,

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David Brooks: those two people, make them do each other's jobs

Jonathan C: and then actually get some real general, I was to say, why not?

Jonathan C: Yeah.

David Brooks: You know, I, I do think there are some people, I'll tell one story. I love telling this story. It's a woman named Mary Gordon who has a program called roots of empathy. And what she does is she wants to teach empathy and their empathy is measurably in decline in this country, uh, which is another perversity. Uh, and so what she does is she takes a moms and infants and puts them in an eighth grade classroom and the infant crawls around and the eighth graders sit around in the infant and they have to guess what's going on in the infant's mind. It's a way to teach them what they call theory of mind had to get in another mind. And then one of the beautiful stories she tells her as a kid, and one of the classrooms named Darren and Darren had been held back twice. He'd run, run through the foster care system. You'd actually seen his mom die. Uh, and he asked the mom if she could hippie could hold the baby. And uh, she said she was nervous because Darren was much bigger than everybody else and she let Darren hold the baby and Darren was actually great with the baby and just cuddle them, gave back to mom and then start asking questions about parenthood. Uh, and uh, the final question was, if nobody has ever loved you, can you still be a good father?

David Brooks: And so kids, kids are growing up in that world and then merging into adulthood in that world. And so when people like Mary Gordon are just great at relationship, uh, and the problem is relationship is long and slow and it doesn't scale but norms scale. And so, but if you can shift the culture so you can shift the definition what people think is normal to be a neighbor or the normal way to construct a family or the normal way to engage your children or your workers, then you can have a big effect. And so one of the things we're doing, we have a project that has been called we've the social fabric projects and we're just trying to think of ways to shift norms

Jonathan C: right in the two and a half minutes that we have left there and throw this question out to both of you. And that is for everyone in this room, what's the one thing everyone can do to either combat loneliness

David Brooks: or be joyful?

Marc Freedman: I'll start with you, mark. I, well, you know, I've got this cross generational lens and I'd say it's proximity. Yeah. You know, um, it's to, to, um, put ourselves in situations where these kinds of connections or are going to happen. Um, rather than, uh, go off and live in Sun City where you're never going to see a kid where the age police, uh, which, uh, follows school buses around to make sure they're not dropping off children at the most popular volunteer activity. Um, go, you know, put yourself in circumstances where you are going to connect. Arthur

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Brooks just wrote this wonderful piece in the current issue of the Atlantic in which he talks about going off to teach, to put himself in situation where I have this contact with younger generations and I think, um, we need to realize that that age segregation, um, this pernicious phenomenon that seems like the, it's natural, like the oxygen in the air is, is unnatural. It's, it's, and it's something that we have to consciously combat.

David Brooks: Yeah. David and I would say I've met in this work, a lot of us have experienced moments of joy, but some people radiate joy all the time. It's their normal outlook. Uh, and so like through we've, I've gotten to work with Yoyo Ma Fair bit, and that guy just radiates joy all the time. He looks at every person he meets as if they are a miracle and he greets them as if they're miracles, which is the accurate way to greet people. And then once I was seated next to the Dalai Lama and that guy also just radiates joy. He just, I was seated next to him at with Arthur Brooks. And, um, he didn't say anything profound to me, which was disappointing.

Marc Freedman: [inaudible]

David Brooks: well, he just started laughing all the time. Just constant, spontaneous laughter. And I think the people who have done that have, so giving them some, put themselves in the situation. You've mentioned that there's a Richard War phrase, a bright sadness, which is they've seen the depths, but they experienced the joy because they've, they're giving themselves into the depths. And so it does often perversely involve not going to aspen or in Hawaii, but go into the ugliest places that I hadn't thought about that. But I think it does involve going down low to get high.

Jonathan C: And then to close. I want to close with a quote that I've heard you say, David, to this point. When you're down in the valley,

Jonathan C: you're either broken or broken open. And so you say to people to embrace the being broken open to come through on the other side. And with that David Brooks, Mark Friedman. Thank you

New Speaker: very much. Holy fucking opening. Good to see Ya. Yeah, yeah. I've got one of those you don't have. Hello. Hello. Nice to meet you.

Maria Hinojosa: Hey everyone. We're about to start two seconds. Stay warm. You can jump up and down. Hug your neighbor. There you go. Hug your neighbor if you ask them first though, there's a lot going on here.

New Speaker: Um, style wise,

Maria Hinojosa: I've got the six inch heels. I've got the six inch heels, uh, the jacket that I wasn't supposed to be wearing on stage. Then I've also, that's draped over my shoes so that my toes, because I brought, all of us, brought open toe shoes. Right? What

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were we thinking? I am so happy to be on stage talking about activism and climate change and, and finding joy by putting your bodies right where you believe they should be and taking action and how activism can actually bring the solution to the panel that we were just hearing from joy and loneliness. These people have done that. Uh, Andrea Rogers is the senior attorney with children's trust. Um, Vic Barrett, right next to me is a student at University of Wisconsin at Madison and [inaudible] Lowe's neck is a from Oregon, just graduated from Columbia University. Um, so actually let's start with this.

Maria Hinojosa: Let's start because people are kind of saying what, what's, what's this panel about? We're talking about um, a legal challenge called Juliana versus United States. It's 21 youth activists that basically took on the government and said, because you're not cleaning up the environment, we as young people are going to suffer. So they just kind of give me the four one one. How is it that you decide to get involved and say of all of the things that you face, challenges as a person, the one that you said you are going to on was the environment climate change.

Vic Barrett: Yeah. Um, I was really fortunate to go to high school in New York City and have a lot of opportunity to engage with activists, to engage with leaders, community leaders, mentors. Um, and that was really important for me and it really educated me on the issue of climate change, not just as a scientific issue and they shouldn't be environment, not just as a scientific issue, but as a human issue that, um, is really integral to justice and being after Latin x, being queer, being young. I've always been very invested in justice as a topic in social justice. And when I started to realize that there's ways that the system that exists does turns our own nature against this, turns the environment against us and disproportionately people of color who have always been mega stores of the environment. I just felt like I couldn't tag as stewards of the, um, I just felt like I couldn't tap out. And especially putting it into context. Um, I'm a first generation American. My mom is Honduran American. We're a part of the grief.

Maria Hinojosa: Did, I was going to say, are you part of the God up? Yeah. Wow. How many of you know Garifuna? Nada. Nada. EA. Wow. It's such an honor. Well, the reason why I'm reacting this way is because Vic is representative of not just after Latinex, which I'm so proud that you identify that way. But God, he from that people are a survivor people. So it give the too quick for one, one on Gotti from not people.

Vic Barrett: Yeah. I'm so you're, you're saying that people aren't offering for indigenous people to, um, Honduras beliefs. A lot of countries in Central America and basically during the diaspora were bought from west Africa, um, ended up in the Saint Vincent in the Saint Vincent, um, and a lot of the tropics in the Caribbean. And we're able to basically, um, escape and become independent from servitude and, uh, go to Central America and create our own communities and really cherish our own culture, develop our own language.

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Maria Hinojosa: The language is amazing. It's a combination of Spanish. Yeah. English walk Arawak Yeah. Whoa. It's amazing. Um, okay. Thank you so much. Alex. Couldn't be more different. [inaudible] grows up on a farm in Oregon, which I remind you was the one state that declared that you had to be an all white state. I'm an Oregon [inaudible] what is that? Okay. Um, you grew up in a farm that's been in your family for 150 years. Yes. Um, so what's the connection for you? Because you just graduated from Columbia University, obviously you didn't think my city was cool enough to stay there. You're like, I'm going back to Oregon, um, western or at heart, I think. Okay. So what was the connection? You're like, yeah, no, I'm not to do, you know, I'm not going to be a corporate lawyer. I'm going to fight for my farm, essentially.

Alex Loznak: Absolutely. Well, one of the really beautiful things about this case, as you've kind of touched on, is that it brings together really a cross section of our generation, these 21 young people. We're from all over the country and coming from such, such different, such diverse backgrounds. But I think that our stories being so different, really compliment each other and our perspectives can really talk about, uh, talk about this issue in different ways. And I think that's something that's very powerful. Um, as you said, my, my ever so great grandmother, uh, across the Oregon trail and founded our family's farm about 150 years ago, and it was in fact, uh, the, uh, the first farm in Oregon to be owned by a woman. And my grandmother who was a, a feminist author, actually wrote a book about it. I can't say it's a novel. She'll, she'll get, get on my case if I say that it's technically historical, uh, historical realism because it's all true.

Alex Loznak: It's not fiction. Maybe a little bit of historical drama, a little bit, a little bit. Um, and so coming from this background, growing up on the farm, um, I grew up very close to natural resources and as you know, someone from an agricultural background, you really see, uh, the rhythm of the seasons. You see when, when it's a record breaking hot summer, you deal with the impact of that in a very real and very tangible and personal way. And just to give you a very brief, I, you know, a list of just some of the impacts that we're facing. I actually, I mean I actually wrote a 25 page statement for the, for the court case that lists all the ways that our farmers being impacted. The government had tried to argue, well these kids don't have a personal injury, but we have proved a personal injury, uh, beyond a reasonable doubt in my opinion. Give us a few for sure. So we had the three hottest summers ever recorded, all occur within the past six years and that led to record breaking fires, record breaking droughts, and that really causes a very direct personal impact on me and my family and our farm.

Maria Hinojosa: Okay. I'm Andrea. It must be pretty cool to be representing 21 young people from around the country who are badass.

Andrea Rodgers: Absolutely. I have the best job in the world.

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Maria Hinojosa: So tell us a little bit about, um, I mean, we know about the case in general. Um, a lot of people are thinking about the courts and judges in the United States of America right about now. So talk to us about what Juliana versus the United States, um, what you, how you see it progressing as a case. What's the expectation? And I wonder how many people actually even knew about Juliana versus the United States and what's up with that, that we're not hearing about it more often?

Alex Loznak: Yeah. Well, you know, you don't hear a lot about lawsuits, but I think because this is brought by young people, it's starting to get, um, much more public

Andrea Rodgers: than a lot of cases are. But this is a constitutional climate change case and it's the first of its kind where we argue because the government for the last 50 years has known of the dangers and the perils of climate change and not only the dangers of perils of climate change, but that it would particularly harm our children. They knew that it would be a monumental threat. All of the administration starting with the Johnson administration have all been warned and educated about the science and the dangers of climate change. And in spite of that knowledge, they have pursued and created and developed and perpetuated an energy system that's based on fossil fuels. And we've heard a lot about the comp at the conference here this weekend about our health system and how our health system is broken while our energy system is also broken as well. And it's what's what's causing these harms. And so when there's a government created system that is harming the rights of young people, we are fortunate in this country to be able to turn to the courts to protect their rights. So we're arguing that the government is violating their rights to life, liberty property and equal protection of the law.

Maria Hinojosa: How'd that happen? Like did Vic just kind of like, Yo, can we talk Andrew? I mean like, because to be honest with you, I mean many of you know me as a journalist. Um, I am a proud Mexican born immigrant Latina journalist in the United States of America, which makes me something of an enemy. Um, in some cases, but I'm thinking over the past 50 years, the government has known and understood potential damages to human beings in terms of immigration policy. Like is there a, is there a class there in terms of immigration policy and harm, particularly to children right now? But I'm like, how do you even go about that? Like how do you even form a clot? So how does it happen? Because there are probably people here are thinking, Huh, what other possibilities? So give us the short story of how it actually comes together.

Andrea Rodgers: Yeah. Well, there's many cases that were in line with, you know, I mean, you look at Brown versus board of Education and desegregating our public schools. That was the same kind of constitutional theory. Um, our PR, our prison overcrowding cases, there's been a tremendous amount of litigation, mental health system reform, all of which had broken systems that the courts don't develop the policies to fix the system, but they declare what is and what is not unconstitutional. And that's what we're asking them to do in, in our case. And,

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you know, youth around the world have really started to mobilize on this issue. We started developing these cases back in 2010. Um, and at that point in time, you know, a lot of these young people, I can't tell you how many times Alex and Vic and the other have testified in Congress or spoken to legislators and met with politicians, all of them who pat them on the head and say, keep it up while they then go approve of fossil fuel infrastructure project that will lock in a missions for their lifetime. Um, and I think youth understand, you know, they learn about that there's three branches of government in our system and they've been to the legislative branch, they've been to the executive branch, but it's time for the judicial branch to step in when the executive and legislative branches are affirmatively violating their rights and young people understand that.

Maria Hinojosa: So, um,

Maria Hinojosa: as someone, so you were born in this country? Yes. So what's the family conversation around the dinner table when it's like, so Vic is a part of a lawsuit challenging the federal government of the United States of America.

Vic Barrett: Okay.

Maria Hinojosa: Your family is saying babble babble or, or there or are they saying they were from Honduras? Um, our people are challenged. You're putting yourself out there in so many ways. Don't do this. What's the dialogue because your activism is drawing national, international attention.

Vic Barrett: Yeah. I think the lived experience of my family is very, um, intro to how they respond to my involvement in the lawsuit. I remember when I first, um, breached the conversation if my mom, I was like, there's this thing I'm thinking about getting you involved in, you know, I was kind of dancing around and I was like, so we're like sitting the US federal government. Um, and I remember at first heard, and also because I was a minor at the time, um, she would have had to sign on as a co plaintiffs. Yeah. Basically until I like my legal guardian. So her name was on the positive. She was like, whoa. Um, but I, I remember definitely her response being like, can you can see the government, what is like what? Cause for an earlier experience, people don't have that interaction with the government. People don't have that autonomy to engage with their government.

Vic Barrett: And that same way. And so she had a lot of skepticism and she was worried for my safety. She was worried for how people respond and her head and you know, like, and when you live in grove, in a country with such a corrupt government, like she didn't know what would happen to me, like taking these actions. Um, but as I've, you know, talked to her more about it as like she's been more educated on climate change because of my involvement in it and when I draw my connection to it, to the fact that like being grief in, uh, um, being part of a culture that UNESCO is clarified as critically endangered and climate change

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being so much of that. Um, I think she has a lot of pride in knowing that even though I didn't grow up in Honduras and I can't speak like the language of my people, I find so much hope and like being able to be a person that was born in the United States and hold my government accountable knowing that we contribute to so much of global climate emissions and the contribution of the country that I was born in does so much to destroy the culture that I'm from.

Vic Barrett: And I think that like talking about that if they're doing a table and really contextualizing it as like, this isn't just me being like a young American teenager who was, you know, like has these liberal radical ones to like say it to me. Like really trying to give back to like the opportunity and what you've done to get me here.

Maria Hinojosa: So I think it's really important and I'm so glad that you all get a chance to see that because the children and the women and the men who we are right now hearing about as posing a threat to our country are leaving in many cases. And we don't hear about this. We don't hear about people leaving Central America because of Lgbtq attacks and assault large part of that. But we also don't hear specifically about the fact that many of these people are leaving because of environmental crises of one sort of another that are being intensified by international corporations that are going into Central American on Duras and trying to take all the natural resources. So for you, Alex, as you're kind of hearing Vic and the connections you know, that Vic is making, what do you want this population to know about? You know, you talked about the very personal impact. Um, I still think that, you know, when you live in a big city, it's hard to talk about the personal impact. You know, I live in an apartment in Harlem and you know, our, our footprint is small, but I'm not in touch with the earth in this way. How do we understand that? And I love the fact that there's historical earth kind of connections both in terms of Vic and in terms of you that have made you move forward.

Alex Loznak: Yup. Well I think getting out here to, to Aspen and getting to be in this beautiful natural setting is a little cold, a little cold, a little cold on it. Looks like it's coming out you guys. And I've heard, you know, and I'm not, I'm not from here, but I have heard from some locals that, you know, a 30 degree temperature in June is not the norm. And so it's actually the warmest month of all in Aspen is supposed to be June and it snowed last night. So, and, and you, you do sometimes here, you know, certain politicians saying, well, I'm not a scientist, so I can't say anything about global warming. But what I will say, I'm not a scientist, but I do think it's very unusual to have weather like this that is so cold in June and it's not just global warming. It's climate change and the effects are hard to predict. Some places become colder, some places become warmer. And as I mentioned, you know, we're, we're also dealing with record breaking hot summers out on my family's farm. But that also has an impact in more of an urban environment. I mean, I moved from the family farm to New York City, which is about as different as you can possibly get and it's, it's a concrete jungle. And so to say

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that, you know, New York City is not going to be impacted by climate change. I mean heat waves.

Maria Hinojosa: Oh No, we're definitely in level rise. We absolutely hurricane sandy for, um, what, what is it that you're thinking of doing Alex? So are you staying in Oregon? Is there, is it a legal, a future for you, you're going to become a lawyer and then become even more in part of the legal response?

Alex Loznak: That's definitely a possibility. I mean, I do have, you know, we do have kind of a tradition. My, my grandfather went to law school, my mother went to law school, she ended up hating it and doing something else. Um, but, and the lawyers in the audience are laughing at that. But the, but I, you know, as you've mentioned, you know, I didn't stay in New York to be a corporate lawyer. And I think I, you know, I do want to do something that is a positive and beneficial to society. And I think that as we look around the world, we see, you know, youth leaders, including my friend vacant, including people like Gretta Sunburg, uh, and including so many people, uh, within, uh, the Sunrise Movement for instance. And I think the, the, you know, the youth of America, the use of the world really have a very important leadership role to play, not just being a moral authority, not just being, you know, get, get, garnering people's sympathy, but actually going forward and being the, you know, the leaders of today and tomorrow.

Speaker 4: Okay. [inaudible] Andrea,

Maria Hinojosa: what are the, what's the legal legal trajectory here? Um, give us the down and dirty truth. Um, if this ends up. And Are you expecting it to end up in front of the Supreme Court?

Andrea Rodgers: Absolutely. We've actually been there twice under the knee drill motions.

Maria Hinojosa: So what are you thinking?

Andrea Rodgers: Yeah, well, you know, our legal theory is actually a very conservative legal theory based on your liberty rights essentially. Um, and, uh, our case was written for the more conservative justices because we knew that we would get up there, you know, um, race was the civil rights issue that was litigated in the fifties, sixties, and of this era it's going to be climate change. Um, so we have what we believe to have articulated a very strong legal claim that um, so far the judges that we've been in front of have agreed with us and have allowed our case to go forward. And I think what helps us is we're supported by 23 of the world's top climate, energy and public health experts in the world, all of whom are donating their time. Um, and donating their time when you write an expert report and get deposed is a really big deal. Um, so, you know, the evidence that we have gathered is remarkable. Uh, our goal is to make sure that we get to trial so that we can tell this story and that Vic and Alex can tell their personal stories in a court of law because the federal government, you know, you can't deny the

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science in a court of law because that's called perjury. So, you know, we're really already test.

Andrea Rodgers: We're ready to, to tell our case. Then one thing I want people to remember, you know, law can be slow and a long winding path and victory looks like many different things. It's not necessarily one court order. You know, the, the, uh, Indian tribes in the Pacific northwest where I'm from, they have been litigating their treaty rights to fish for salmon for over 150 years and they still call manage that resource. And so their legal path has been, you know, very long and windy and unfortunately for us, because of climate change and the urgency, we don't have that time. But you know, victory is going to look in a very, is many, many different ways. And part of it is having people like Vick and Alex and people getting to hear their story and understanding what's going on and understanding the science so we're gonna win. Um, but what that victory looks like, you know, I don't know.

Maria Hinojosa: I just say, let's make sure the truth wins out at every moment. That truth and facts were not at every Mormon, uh, Alex Mag [inaudible] at Andrea Rogers. Thank you so much.

Maria Hinojosa: Thank you. Have a great rest of your [inaudible].

Ruth Katz: You can't ask for much more inspiration than that. Go out and do good things. One final thank you to Tracy Anderson. I skipped over my remarks. Mr Name. Our speakers wouldn't be here without our thanks to all of you. We'll see you back here for Aspen ideas. Health 2020

Speaker 4: okay.