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**NDSC THANKS OUTGOING POLICY & ADVOCACY DIRECTOR, CYRUS HUNCHAREK,
AND WELCOMES INTERIM POLICY DIRECTOR HEATHER SACHS**

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The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) would like to thank Policy and Advocacy Director Cyrus Huncharek for his service to the organization and the broader Down syndrome community. Cyrus will be leaving the NDSC on November 3, 2023, to take a position in the federal government. Under Cyrus' tenure, NDSC has expanded its legislative agenda and grown the National Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition (NDAC), the largest and most effective grassroots program in the Down syndrome community.

Upon Cyrus' departure, Heather Sachs will step in as the Interim Policy & Advocacy Director. Heather served as the NDSC Policy & Advocacy Director from 2017 – 2022 and is currently a member of the NDSC Public Policy Advisory Council and NDAC. "I am excited to pick up where Cyrus left off and continue his great work during this transition time. It's an honor to get to work with the esteemed NDSC Policy & Advocacy Team again, as well as with the whole NDSC staff and outstanding board," Heather said.

NDSC Interim Executive Director Stephanie Smith Lee stated, "On behalf of the NDSC Staff and Board of Directors, we would like to thank Cyrus for all of his efforts and wish him the best with his new government career. We are lucky to have Heather Sachs step back into this leadership role to help guide the NDSC into the future." Heather is a longtime leader in the disability community who developed the National Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition (NDAC) and Advocacy Training Boot Camp at the annual NDSC Convention during her tenure at NDSC.

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The National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) is the country's oldest national organization for people with Down syndrome, their families, and the professionals who work with them. We provide information, advocacy and support concerning all aspects of life for individuals with Down syndrome, and work to create a national climate in which all people will recognize and embrace the value and dignity of people with Down syndrome.