



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

July 9, 2009

Ernie Canadeo
Chairman
National Stuttering Association
119 West 40th Street
14th Floor
New York, NY 10018

Dear Conference Attendees:

Congratulations on the National Stuttering Association's 26th Annual Conference and Research Symposium. I had a tremendous experience last time I joined your organization and the memories of your conference in Baltimore remain close to my heart. Although I am sorry I cannot attend this year's conference, I am privileged to share some thoughts with each of you.

Like nearly 3 million Americans and many of you here this weekend, I know the terrible fear and frustration of a stutter. I still remember the painful experiences and tough lessons of growing up with a stutter, but these experiences taught me this: when you commit yourself to a sustained effort, when you persevere in the face of struggle, and when you find comfort and support from others, you will discover new strengths and skills to overcome the challenge before you.

All of you bring to this conference a unique story to be told and a fighting spirit to be shared. I am honored to add my encouragement to this organization, but I also know that in the end, to each of you who stutter it will be the combination of clinicians, friends, family, and advocacy groups like this one that will renew your pride and strengthen your resolve.

I wish each person involved in this event the utmost happiness and I thank you for including me in your Annual Conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Biden", written over a diagonal line that extends from the bottom left towards the top right.

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.