

# Transportation for Disabled People

*Lupe Martinez*

In my family, there is a disabled person. He is my son. His name is Pedro and he is 43 years old.

He attends a program for disabled adults in Berkeley, Monday to Friday. The bus must pick him up at 8:30 am and return him at home at 3:30 pm. But the bus is not usually on time, and I think many families have the same problem as me.

Some days, the bus arrives on time, but other days, it doesn't. I call the office to find out what time they will pick him up, and I only get the voicemail. Sometimes, they forget to pick him up in the morning or in the afternoon. Somebody in my family has to drive to the program to pick him up. They never call me to explain.

These changes in the schedule do not help him, and they are not good for me or my family. He gets very anxious. Routine works well for him. When my son is anxious, the whole family suffers with him. I take English class every day, but because of these changes I can't always attend my class. I can't look for a job because I'm not sure what will happen tomorrow with the transportation.

Who speaks for disabled people? Our special children need safe and sure transportation.



*Guadalupe Martinez is an ESL student at the Literacy for Every Adult Program (LEAP) in Richmond, CA. She came from Mexico almost 40 years ago with her husband and children.*

**What barriers does Lupe face?** Discuss in a small group. Create a table showing the barriers and their consequences. What ideas do you have for Lupe? Read other articles in this issue to get ideas about what she can do. Write an email to the bus company explaining the problem as if you are Lupe. Are there individuals or agencies you can copy (cc)? What should the subject line say?