

*His fight is my fight  
Cerebral Palsy Warrior*

**#TAYSTRONG**



These days, people do any and everything to follow a trend. It was a senior prank that went too far. Sometimes things are done because we think it's funny not knowing how it could make someone else feel. Nothing was funny about the situation because everyone who is commenting on the situation isn't raising a kid or has a sibling, or family member with my son's condition. My son has cerebral palsy (a condition marked by impaired muscle coordination (spastic paralysis) and/or other disabilities, typically caused by damage to the brain before or at birth) he was born this way, he didn't ask to be this way. Regardless in this situation and any other situation, as his/their mother it's my right to advocate for him. I'm his voice, not only his but for my other child also. As a single mother, I'm responsible for him, "That Chair" his education, his well being, etc. That chair gives him the freedom to feel somewhat normal to maneuver from place to place instead of struggling to walk with a walker or crawling. People are not seeing the bigger picture- it's not just a chair, it's his legs and would become immobile if broken. Yes, he has legs of his own but he can't

get up and walk around like everyone else. He's crouched. He's spastic. It takes much more energy and time for him to walk 5 ft then it does to other people. It's tiresome, it hurts, this is the reason why he has "THAT CHAIR" . Think of it as an athlete breaking his leg, the athlete then becomes immobile to the game. Same as my son's chair.

I didn't post the videos to bash anyone. I posted the videos to advocate for my son. No, he wasn't there when the prank occurred but to wake up and see the videos caused anguish. To them it seemed fun, but to my son it seemed as if he was being impersonated because of the things seen done in "HIS" personal wheelchair, NOT theirs, HIS. We were all livid and in disbelief. As his mother, I had to comfort and reassure him that everything will be ok. Mental Health is real. Suicidal rates are increasing in numbers by the day. My son's feelings were so hurt that he doesn't want to go back to school. Broke my heart into a million pieces.

I was accused of inserting my child in something that had absolutely nothing to do with him. Wrong, It's his chair so once his chair was touched, he was included and with him being a minor means I was included also. I know any parent would have the same thing if it was your child or their belongings. Yes, I went to social media platforms, the social platform where the videos were originally posted. Everyone thought it was funny until I posted the videos and they were seen from my son and I point of view.

*Original post with pictures and videos attached:*

*Sr. Pranks are fun and all but when you make fun of my disabled kid and his belongings then IT BECOMES MY PROBLEM! I don't care who's parents get upset but there will be consequences. I SAID WHAT I SAID! Y'all played with the wrong child & THE WRONG MAMA*

I was also accused of calling people bullies. Never did I state anyone's name, not even my own child nor did I myself call anyone a bully. Yes, I said there will be consequences. No, I didn't specify any specific consequences in-which I should have because it was taken the wrong way. As if I was trying to get their graduation canceled. No, not the case. That decision isn't left up to me, God will make that decision. Comments were made under my post stating what they thought should happen, but never did I specifically say that. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion. The consequences I was referring to were consequences for damages that may have occurred to the \$15,000 wheelchair. The person/persons will be held accountable for any, if needed repairs to his chair. Right now we are hoping and praying that the chair is still mobile (not broken)

I was also accused of defamation of character because I reposted the videos. It's 2023, videos are posted, screen recorded, shared worldwide without permission. People share videos everyday. Honestly, if they didn't want the video shared, then it shouldn't have been posted. The videos was sent to me. I didn't go looking on their page for them. Actually, I was woken up to them.

Defying against all the odds everyday and it challenges and with the love for God, and along with his great support system Tay'Shawn have accomplished several things thus far in life. For those that know my son, Tay'Shawn know that he's much more than a guy in a chair. He has been and will continue to be successful. He will finish school by earning his diploma and eventually continuing his God fearing journey of his dream becoming a pastor.

I appreciate all the parents and students who have reached out to apologize for their actions this far. My son and I don't hate nor dislike anyone affiliated with this situation. It was an eye opener experience for them. You don't have to be a follower, Be a leader. Think further than what's directly in front of you. Take it as a life learning lesson, sometimes we think things are funny to us not knowing the damage it could do to someone else. One day in life you may be in my shoes raising or caring for someone with a disability. You may have to step up and be that person's voice also. You never know what God has in store for your life. Do to others what you would like them to do to you. Finally, I wish AHS class of 23 the best of luck in your new chapter in life. Be smart. Don't let one bad decision determine your future and ruin what you have going for yourself.