5th Annual Arc Connecticut Family Hearing Day!

Sponsored by the I/DD Caucus

Tomorrow, February 21, 2018
10:30am-12:30pm
Legislative Office Building, Room 1C

THIS IS YOUR DAY! COME TELL YOUR STORY!
Sign up to testify between 9:15am-10:00am in Room 1C

Last year more than 1,000 people with I/DD and their families came to the Capitol to tell legislators their stories and legislators listened.

As a result, we were able to:

- Save funding for 2017 & 2018 high school graduates with I/DD.
- Protect Community Residential and Employment & Day Services from deep cuts.
- Get a reprieve for Community First Choice (CFC) program.

This year we are asking legislators to take steps to help more people with I/DD, including those on the growing residential waiting list!

People with I/DD and their families have come to the Capitol year after year to plead their case and to ask legislators to end the waiting list crisis. There are problems- national, international, and even many in Connecticut- that are beyond the power of our legislature to solve. Serving more people and
The Arc is asking legislators to do two things to this year:
1. Put an end to the endless cycle of cuts to Employment & Day Services, the Behavioral Services Program (BSP), Rent Subsidies, and the ID Partnership by cutting millions of dollars spent on excessive overtime at DDS institutions and group homes instead of services in the community.

2. Pass AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT TO SERVE PEOPLE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES RESIDENTIAL WAITING LIST AND ESTABLISH A BROADER ARRAY OF SUPPORTED LIVING OPTIONS WITHIN EXISTING APPROPRIATIONS. Click here for more information.

Our legislature has the power- within already appropriated funds- to make a very real difference in the lives of their constituents with I/DD. Whether you plan to testify or not, don't miss the chance to show up and show legislators that this is important to you!

 Signing up to testify at Family Hearing Day
We realize that due to time constraints, not all who attend will have the opportunity to testify in person, but we encourage you to sign up. This is your day to tell your story. Whether or not you are able to testify in person, you can and should submit written testimony.

Sign up will take place in Room 1C of the Legislative Office Building between 9:15 am -10:00 am. Testimony will be first come, first serve. Please bring 2 copies of your testimony whether you plan to testify in person or not.

Tips for writing testimony
Your testimony should be your story, in your words. Why are you testifying? What do legislators need to know about you, your family, and your current situation to help them protect funding and make good policy decisions for people with I/DD?

Oral testimony is limited to 3 minutes. Speak from your heart!

All written testimony sent to familyhearingtestimony@gmail.com prior to the hearing will be made available to legislators on the I/DD Caucus.

Guidelines for preparing testimony:

- **Name**
- **Town**
Thank I/DD Caucus leaders, Representative Case, Representative Hampton, Senator Kennedy, Senator Linares and other legislators on the I/DD Caucus for hearing your testimony.

- The name and age of your loved one with I/DD.
- What funding and supports if any, do you currently have? DDS? Community First Choice? Housing Vouchers?...
- Why is having do those supports important to your loved one with I/DD and your family?
- How would losing those supports impact your family?
- Are you on a DDS waiting list for supports?
- How does not having the supports you need impact your family?
- What are your concerns/fears for the future for your loved one with I/DD?
- What can legislators do to help your family?

**TAKE THE DAY OFF! TELL YOUR FRIENDS! ORGANIZE A CARPOOL! COME TO THE CAPITOL FOR THE 5TH ANNUAL FAMILY HEARING DAY!**

RSVP HERE

For more information contact Shannon Jacovino at sjacovino@thearcct.org