



Protect our Services and our Rights

How do we ensure we have the services we need and that our rights to live in the community are protected?

January 14, 2026

Today marks the first developmental disabilities Virtual Advocacy event for 2026. We invite you to explore our [Bills of Interest](#) and our [Budget Side by Side](#), which The Arc of Washington is actively tracking this session along with our positions.

Summary:

We understand that this legislative session is going to present budgetary challenges. When you are making difficult decisions, please remember that people with I/DD depend on these crucial services to live. The state has a moral obligation to ensure this population receives the care they need.

It is important to recognize that Individuals with I/DD receive services from many agencies, leading to compounded impacts when cuts are implemented. Equal cuts across state agencies disproportionately affect people with I/DD. Saving money by making cuts to services will ultimately lead to more costly crisis down the line.

We need to ensure that our Federal civil rights laws are enforced to make sure that people with disabilities are not denied services, provided unequal treatment, or relegated to segregated settings and ensure that everyone has equal opportunities to benefit from state services and programs.

What we need:

Protect Our Essential Services: Safeguard the vital services that individuals with I/DD depend upon.

Uphold Our Civil Rights: The state budget must ensure that people with I/DD are treated with respect and dignity and reflect the cost of equal access and opportunity.

What you should watch for this session related to Civil Rights & Services for people with I/DD:

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- [SB 5863](#) and [HB 2252](#) Preservation of records of Lakeland Village: “Truth and Reconciliation”.
- [HB 2319](#) Renaming certain state residential facilities for people with developmental disabilities.
- [HB 2350](#) Increasing transparency regarding Residential Habilitation Center compliance
- [HB 2415](#) Concerning unexpected fatalities of residents of DSHS
- [HB 1390](#)– Repealing the Community Protection Program
- [HB 1795](#) Ending harmful use of restraint and isolation in schools
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Questions: Contact The Arc of Washington cathy@arcwa.org