

WHAT ARE OUR RIGHTS AND HOW DO WE ADVOCATE?



January 10, 2024

Today is the first developmental disabilities Virtual Advocacy for 2024. Attached are the bills of interest and the Governor's budget items that The Arc of Washington is following this session along with their position.

Topic: What Are Our Rights and How Do We Advocate?

Summary: People with disabilities desire to live, work, learn, and play in their community, requiring accommodations to get what they need to live their lives. Federal civil rights laws are there to make sure that people with disabilities are not denied services, provided unequal treatment, or relegated to segregated settings and to ensure they have equal opportunities to benefit from state services and programs.

What we need: People with I/DD need Services and programs designed to work for them so they can participate and be fully included in everyday life.

The state budget must reflect the cost of equal access and opportunity.

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

- Shifting the Burden of Proof in Special Education
- Ending harmful use of restraint and isolation in schools
- Ensuring behavioral health services are accessible to people with different types of disabilities so individuals don't end up in institutions or stuck in the hospital.
- Including individuals with I/DD in the process: "Nothing About Us Without Us"
- Providing legal aid so people with disabilities can access their rights.
- Preservation of records of Lakeland Village: "Truth and Reconciliation".

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