

The Arc Minnesota's 2012 Public Policy Priorities: Repair Damage, Protect Rights, and Transform Systems

The Arc Minnesota promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and we actively work for their full participation in our communities. In 2012 we want to:

- ✓ Repair the damage caused by budget cuts passed in 2011.
- ✓ Protect rights that may be jeopardized by proposals this year.
- ✓ Transform disability services so people with disabilities have better lives at the best possible value for our public dollars.

Specifically, we call on our elected officials to:

- **Reverse the Wage Cut for Staff Who Support Their Relatives.**
 - 6,000 staff (officially called personal care attendants) who support their family members with disabilities in their homes could see their wages cut by 20%.
- **Reverse the 10% Cut in Services That Keep People with Disabilities in Our Communities.**
 - Some group homes say this cut will make it difficult to keep their doors open and will disrupt the lives of their residents.
- **Oppose Constitutional Amendments Threatening the Right to Vote and Future Funding for Services.**
 - Proposals to amend our constitution and require a voter ID will threaten the right of people with disabilities to vote. Other proposals would jeopardize future funding for disability supports.
- **Preserve Special Education Laws That Provide Needed Services and Give Parents a Voice.**
 - Legislators plan to introduce legislation in 2012 that would take away the say parents have about services for their children with disabilities and jeopardize the technology and services students with disabilities need to be successful.
- **Transform ALL Disability Services.**
 - Current programs like Housing Access Services and Consumer Directed Community Supports give people with disabilities more control over their lives, provide more flexibility to manage their services, and can save tax dollars. Other initiatives underway will give people with disabilities additional control and flexibility over their services and improve the quality of those supports.

