



## ADVOCACY RESOURCES AND URGENT ACTION

Thank you for lending your support along with AHRC Suffolk and The Arc NY as an advocate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, families, caregivers, and frontline workers!



Over a few short months we have added over 5,000 dedicated voices to our cause and generated nearly 17,000 direct connections with lawmakers.

The Arc NY has updated their [advocacy resource page](#) to include all current campaigns and additional resources to help inform you and those you reach out to. If you have not participated in our recent campaigns, please take a moment to act. You can also access [recent headlines](#) generated through your advocacy efforts. Please share these important stories and calls to action on social media, and with friends, family, and colleagues throughout New York state.

### IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED!

#### Pressure CMS to Extend Timeframe for HCBS Retainer Payments

ANCOR has released an immediate [call to action](#) asking advocates to contact their U.S. Representatives about urgent action needed to sustain the Community Based Services (HCBS) program.

Please ask them to sign onto a letter led by U.S. Representative Rob Woodall (R-GA), which will be sent to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requesting that the agency “use its regulatory authority to extend the timeframe in which states are allowed to issue retainer payments to qualifying Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) providers for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.”

#### The Affordable Care Act - What's At Risk?

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) made significant progress in expanding access to health care for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD). However, on November 10, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear a case seeking to overturn the law. Leading up to the ACA's day in court, here is [a primer](#) on what the ACA does for people with I/DD, and what's at stake if the law is overturned. This information may be useful in your conversations with others and any media requests.

#### Your Right to Vote

If you have questions about voting in your county, the preferred and fastest way to find answers is to directly contact your [county Board of Elections](#). They have information specific to your locality, including dates, times, and locations of early voting sites. You can also confirm the processing of your absentee ballot application or ballot. Additional information can be found on the New York State [Board of Elections website](#).

Your county Board of Elections can give you a sample ballot, which will show exactly where candidates and referenda are located on the ballot. This is helpful to view prior to completing your absentee ballot or going to the polls in person. The Arc US has also created plain language voting resources in Spanish and English, and other resources which can all be found [here](#).

Given the fiscal challenges facing the state, we have a long fight ahead of us and will look to you to help drive home the message that #WeAreEssential. We cannot thank you enough for being a part of our collective voice and contributing to our strength. Stay tuned for future updates and calls to action!