

# 2023 IDD Awareness Day Policy Webinar

Welcome!

- This webinar has been pre-recorded. Please email the presenters with questions. Contact information is provided at the end of the presentation.
- The slides and a recording will be posted at:  
[www.alliancecolorado.org/iddawarenessday](http://www.alliancecolorado.org/iddawarenessday)
- Come back to watch the Live Virtual Luncheon from 12:00 – 1:30pm!

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities



AWARENESS DAY

Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities  
Awareness Day

Hosted by:



**JFK Partners** is Colorado's University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) and Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Program. Our mission is to promote the individuality, inclusion, active community engagement, and health and well-being of all people of diverse backgrounds with developmental disabilities and their families.



**Alliance** is a nonprofit, statewide association of Community Centered Boards (CCBs), Program Approved Service Agencies (PASAs), Strategic Partners, and Advocacy Network members dedicated to strengthening services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).



**The Arc of Colorado** provides system advocacy, public awareness, community education, and support for self-advocacy organizations across the state for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc of Colorado is the state chapter and, across the state, we have an additional 14 local chapters.

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# Presenters:



Sandra Friedman  
Executive Director



Ellen Jensby  
Senior Director of Public  
Policy & Operations



Elizabeth Moran  
Executive Director



# Agenda:

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- Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
  - Workforce Crisis and Colorado budget actions
  - 2023 bills to watch in Colorado
  - Legislative advocacy 101

## Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities



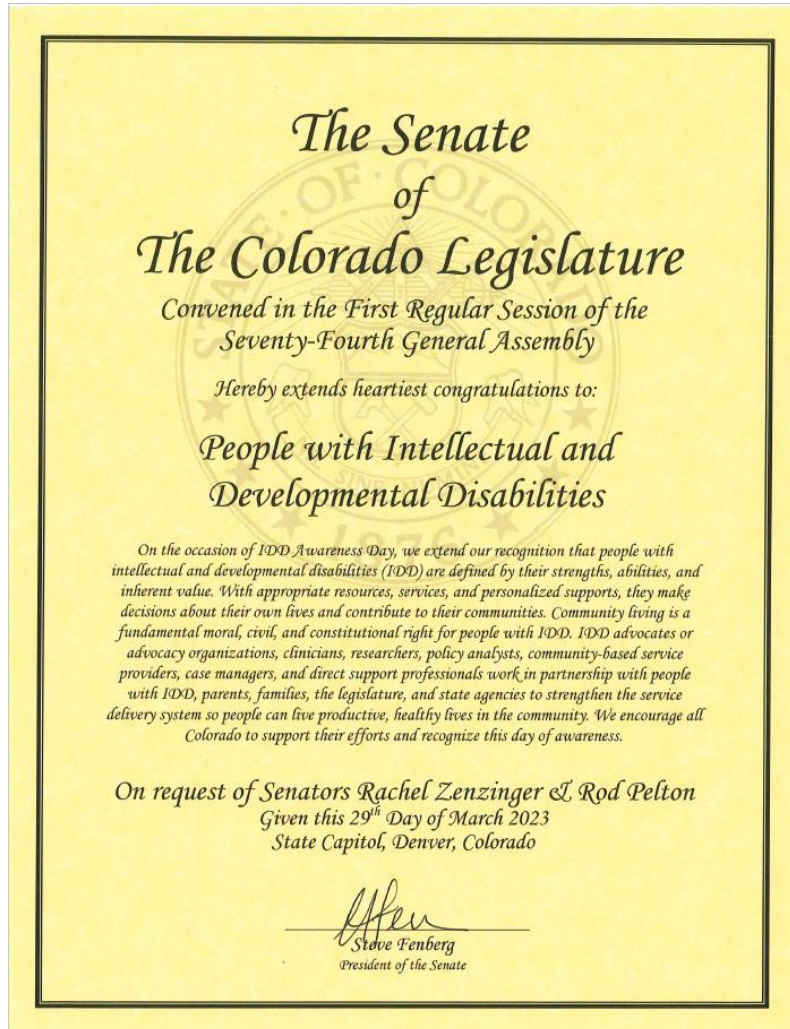
**AWARENESS DAY**

# March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month!

- In 1987, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed March as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
- Raises awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life, as well as the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live
- Kicked off with Disability Rights Advocacy Day on March 1<sup>st</sup>!



# Thank you, Gov. Polis & the General Assembly!



**WHEREAS**, Colorado wishes to celebrate, promote, and protect the human rights of people with disabilities and actively support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes; and

**WHEREAS**, disabilities are a natural part of the human experience and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have inherent value with individual strengths and abilities, are equal before the law, and must be treated with dignity and respect; and

**WHEREAS**, collaboration, education, employment and home and community-based services are vital to enable people with IDD to achieve a self-determined lifestyle, and engage in all aspects and contribute to their communities and to the well-being of others; and

**WHEREAS**, the most effective way to increase awareness is through openness to learn and acknowledge that there are systemic barriers that reduce the likelihood of those with disabilities to enjoy equitable experiences and live independent, productive lives within their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado encourages and supports the civil, legal, and human rights of our citizens with IDD, including but not limited to equal protection before the law, effective communication supports and accommodations under the ADA that ensure meaningful engagement in all aspects of due process, freedom from abuse, neglect, and exploitation, to make their own person-centered decisions to advocate for themselves and express their will and preferences, and to receive the supports they need to be successful, productive, and independent members of their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, awareness must be raised that segregated institutions, policies, programs, and services are not only more financially costly to our society, but are also costly to those with disabilities who desire to live independent, productive lives; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens should do all within their power to create ways to include everyone, especially those with IDD, to be fully included in all aspects of life and that policymakers no longer invest in segregation, but rather create inclusive, equitable policies and systems for all; and

**WHEREAS**, during the past several difficult years of the COVID-19 pandemic, opportunities for inclusion and community engagement for individuals with disabilities have been particularly affected; and

**WHEREAS**, National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month seeks to educate the community about the rights of individuals with IDD to live their best lives and be seen and as a contributing neighbor, co-worker, church member, classmate, voter, friend, volunteer, and valued member of their community;

**THEREFORE**, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2023 as:

**INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (IDD) AWARENESS DAY**

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this twenty-ninth day of March, 2023.

*Jared Polis*

Jared Polis  
Governor

[View the Proclamation](#)

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# Direct Support Workforce Crisis

Background and 2023 Budget Proposals

# Direct Support Workforce Crisis

- **Direct Support Professionals, or DSPs**, are workers who assist people with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives in the community through a diverse range of services, such as helping them get ready in the morning, take medication, find a job, and participate in social activities
- The pandemic worsened longstanding challenges to recruit and retain DSPs
- We have a severe shortage of DSPs, resulting in:
  - Program reductions and waiting lists
  - Providers turning away new referrals, delaying launch of new services, and facing unsustainable turnover costs
  - People with IDD can't access all services (expanding the "invisible wait list") and must cope with staff turnover





# How can the Colorado Legislature help?

## Support Budget Recommendations:

- Approve rate increases to raise pay for DSPs to \$15.75 per hour (up from \$15 per hour last year). In Denver, the base wage will be \$17.29 per hour.
- Approve rate increases for group residential services and non-medical transportation
- Approve a 3% increase for all Medicaid services
- Approve targeted increases for behavioral, massage, music, and movement therapies
- Approve sustainable rates for Case Management
- Approve expanded eligibility and workforce investments for Early Intervention



Support Direct Support Professionals!

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# Colorado Bills to Watch

2023



# Bills to **SUPPORT** in 2022

- ✓ Legal Representation and Students With Disabilities – HB 23-1168
- ✓ Office of Public Guardianship – SB 23-064
- ✓ Stakeholder Process for Oversight of Host Home Providers – HB 23-1197
- ✓ School Policies & Student Conduct – HB 23-1109
- ✓ Admissibility Standards for Juvenile Statements – HB 23-1042
- ✓ Reduce Justice-involvement for Young Children – HB 23-1249

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# Legal Representation and Students with Disabilities (HB 23-1168)

- Current law entitles parents, guardians, etc. to file a state complaint against their child's education provider
- HB 1168 creates a pool of pro bono attorneys to represent parents being sued by school districts in a due process hearing in certain situations
- Parents can contact the designated non-profit organization that will keep the list of attorneys to have one appointed to their case

## PRIME SPONSORS



Representative  
Said Sharbini



Representative  
Junie Joseph



Senator  
Faith Winter

# Continue Office of Public Guardianship (SB 23-064)

- The Office of Public Guardianship (OPG) was created in 2017 to provide guardianship services in 3 judicial districts through June 2024
- SB 064 extends the OPG indefinitely and expands the office statewide
- Adds a Board of Directors, which must include a person with lived experience
- Training provided to guardians must include info on less restrictive alternatives to guardianship, like supported decision-making and limited guardianship

## PRIME SPONSORS



Senator  
Bob Gardner



Senator  
Joann Ginal



Representative  
Marc Snyder

# Stakeholder Process for Oversight of Host Home Providers (HB 23-1197)

- Requires the Dept. of Health Care Policy & Financing to engage in a stakeholder process to address concerns and solutions for people living in Host Homes
- The process must begin by Sept. 2023 and include provider agencies, case management agencies, host home providers, people with lived experiences, and advocacy groups
- Results of the process will be reported to the legislature

## PRIME SPONSORS



Representative  
Mary Young

# School Policies and Student Conduct (SB 23-1109)

- Current law allows suspensions/expulsions/denied admission for behavior on or off school property
- SB 1109 requires school districts to add procedural safeguards for expulsion hearings
- If off-school behavior is unrelated to a school-sponsored event, no automatic suspension/expulsion/denial
- Adds training for hearing officers on disabilities, trauma-informed care and intervention
- Expands data reporting on hearing results and reactions of school officials

## PRIME SPONSORS



Representative  
Serena Gonzales-  
Gutierrez



Representative  
Junie Joseph



Senator  
Faith Winter

# Admissibility Standards for Juvenile Statements (HB 23-1042)

- Narrows the admissibility of juvenile statements to protect the voluntariness of such statements
- If law enforcement knowingly uses deception during the interrogation, the statement is presumptively inadmissible against the student at hearing
  - Unless the prosecution proves that the admission was voluntary
- Peace Officer Standards & Training board must develop training for peace officers on juvenile interrogation
  - Must include awareness of communication accommodations required by the Americans with Disabilities Act

## PRIME SPONSORS



Representative  
Jennifer Bacon



Representative  
Said Sharbini



Senator  
Julie Gonzales



# Reduce Justice-involvement for Young Children HB 23-1249

- End prosecution and detention of kids ages 10-12 by July 2024
- Expands entities that can refer a child/family/victim to the Collaborative Management Programs for services
  - CMPs coordinate local services for kids who need them
  - CMPs can refer victims directly to services and resources, improving coordination
- Allows law enforcement to take control of situations to maintain safety of the child and others

## PRIME SPONSORS



Representative  
Ryan Armagost



Representative  
Serena Gonzales-  
Gutierrez



Senator  
Cleave Simpson

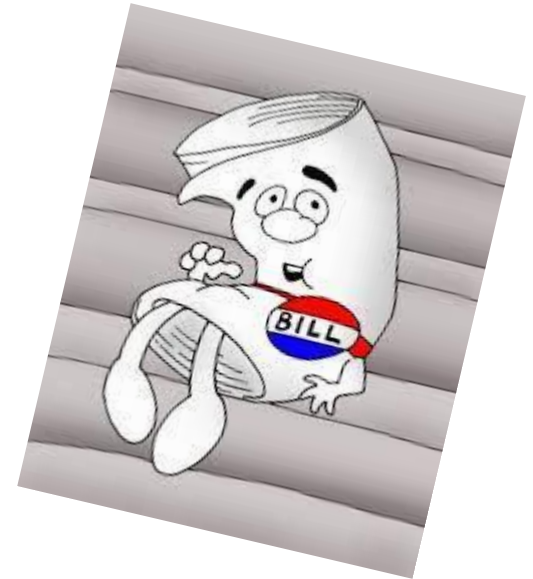


Senator  
James Coleman

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# Additional bills to watch

- [HB23-1040 Prader-Willi Syndrome](#)
- [SB23-099 Special Education Funding](#)
- [HB23-1171 Just Cause Requirement Eviction of Residential Tenant](#)
- [HB23-1120 Eviction Protections for Residential Tenants](#)
- [HB23-1136 Prosthetic Devices for Recreational Activity](#)



# Even more bills...

Check out our online bill trackers!



[alliancecolorado.org/bill-tracker](https://alliancecolorado.org/bill-tracker)



[cqrcengage.com/thearco/collegbilltracker](https://cqrcengage.com/thearco/collegbilltracker)

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# Legislative Advocacy 101

How to get involved at any level



# Beginner Advocacy (actions that take 2-15 mins)

- Find out who your representatives are
  - [leg.colorado.gov/find-your-legislator](http://leg.colorado.gov/find-your-legislator)
  - [congress.gov/members](http://congress.gov/members)
- Connect with organizations you trust:
  - Follow on social media
  - Sign up for their newsletters
  - Respond to Action Alerts
- Register to vote
- Program your elected official's contact info into your phone



# Intermediate Advocacy (actions that take 15-60 mins)

- Learn how your legislators voted on important bills
  - Bill trackers or scorecards from organizations you trust
- Call or visit your legislators to discuss issues you care about and share your lived experience(s)
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper



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# Advanced Advocacy (actions that take 1-8 hours)



- Attend and/or testify at a hearing on a bill of interest to you
  - [Colorado Session Schedule](#)
  - [Public Testimony Options](#)
- Attend or host a candidate forum, town hall, or other educational opportunity and ask about their stance on issues important to you
- Create a lasting relationship with a legislator by being an ongoing resource for them
- Volunteer to help a candidate, cause, or organization

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Questions? Contact Us:



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Elizabeth Moran  
emoran@thearcofco.org



**March 29, 2023**

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