

EDUCATE TO ADVOCATE 2019

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The Arc Tennessee

TENNESSEE 111TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020

- ▶ Second session of the 111th General Assembly
- ▶ Likely to be short – it's an election year
- ▶ Lt. Governor is Randy McNally
- ▶ Speaker is Cameron Sexton
- ▶ Many committee chair changes in the House

KEY ISSUES IN STATE POLICY FOR 2020

- ▶ Budget requests
 - ▶ Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) requests \$8,664,200 million for Direct Support Professional (DSP) wages (\$3 million state dollars)
 - ▶ TennCare requests \$26,844,500 million to add 2,000 additional slots for the Employment and Community (ECF) CHOICES program (\$9,159,900)

KEY ISSUES IN STATE POLICY FOR 2020

- ▶ Proposed legislation
 - ▶ Telehealth
 - ▶ Office of Accessible Transportation (SB1612/HB1596)
 - ▶ Special license plates for motor vehicles operated by persons with qualifying disabilities (HB1584)

KEY ISSUES IN STATE POLICY FOR 2020

- ▶ Implementation of the Katie Beckett program
- ▶ Monitoring status of Amendment 42

KEY ISSUES IN FEDERAL POLICY FOR 2020

- ▶ TennCare's Amendment 42 (proposal to convert a portion of the state's Medicaid program to a block grant)
- ▶ The Social Security Administration's proposal to revise regulations on the frequency of conducting continuing disability reviews (CDRs) – public comment due 01/31
- ▶ Ongoing attacks on programs that are important to people with disabilities: SSI, SSDI, Medicaid, SNAP, etc.

KEY ISSUES IN FEDERAL POLICY FOR 2020

- ▶ Key Legislation
 - ▶ IDEA Full Funding Act (S.866/H.R.1878)
 - ▶ ABLE Age Adjustment Act (S.651/H.R.1814)
 - ▶ The Lifespan Respite Care Reauthorization Act of 2019 (S.995/ H.R.2035)
 - ▶ Credit for Care Act (S.1443/H.R.2730)

KEY ISSUES IN FEDERAL POLICY FOR 2020

- ▶ Other legislation in the works
 - ▶ Make Money Follows the Person (MFP) permanent
 - ▶ HCBS Infrastructure Act
 - ▶ Work without Worry Act

YOUR ACTIONS MATTER

- ▶ It's all about relationships
 - ▶ Meet with your legislators, especially if they are new – share your story with them
 - ▶ Meet with members of the Governor's cabinet, especially if they are new – share your story with them
 - ▶ Call and email – especially after meeting with them
- ▶ It isn't "one and done" – you have to work at it and get in front of them regularly

YOUR ACTIONS MATTER

- ▶ Other ways to get involved in public policy advocacy:
 - ▶ Submit comments on proposed policies, rules, etc. during public comment periods
 - ▶ Get involved in coalitions and committees that focus on an issue of interest to you
 - ▶ Subscribe to legislative and policy updates from organizations like The Arc, Disability Rights TN, DD Council, AUCD, TN Disability Coalition, etc.

in this
together



DISABILITY DAY ON THE HILL

February 4, 2020

Cordell Hull building

9am – 2pm

[https://www.thearctn.org/
Calendar.php](https://www.thearctn.org/Calendar.php)

RESOURCES

- ▶ The Arc Tennessee:
<http://www.thearctn.org/Public-Policy.php>
- ▶ Tennessee Disability Coalition:
<https://www.tndisability.org/>
- ▶ Disability Rights Tennessee:
<https://www.disabilityrightstn.org/resources/news/january-2015/policy-watch>
- ▶ TN Council on Developmental Disabilities:
<https://www.tn.gov/cdd/public-policy.html>
- ▶ AUCD:
<https://www.aucd.org/template/page.cfm?id=27>
- ▶ The Arc:
<https://www.thearc.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=2530>



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QUESTIONS?