

The Arc of Virginia

Presentation to Health and Human Resources Subcommittee

Senate Finance

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by

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The Arc of Virginia

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. For over 50 years The Arc of Virginia has been a leading advocate for individuals with intellectual (mental retardation) and related developmental disabilities and their families in the Commonwealth.

I want to begin by thank you for your support of the issues brought before you last year...funding more MR Waiver slots and the start-up for those slots; support of the rate increase for MR, DD and Day Support waiver services; DD waiver funding; and other initiatives which support individuals in the community.

This year 215 MR Waiver slots have been allocated (110 children and 115 adult). The ability to place slots on line quickly is much improved due to the rate increases and the start-up funding assigned to each slot. Again, we thank you.

There are 170 new MR Waiver slots identified in the Governor's proposed budget, as introduced. This will bring the total MR Waiver slots for FY 08 to 384 (up from 214). This is great news! We support a budget amendment which has been put in to request critical start-up funds for these 170 slots.

Here are some statistics:

- As of January 19, 2006, the urgent care wait list was 1467
- As of January 12, 2007, the urgent care wait list is 1751 – this is an ***increase of 284 individuals over a year EVEN AFTER the 215 MR Waiver slots have been given out***
- As of January 19, 2006, the non-urgent care wait list was 1554
- As of January 12, 2007, the non-urgent care wait list is 1746 – ***this is an increase of 192 individuals***

What we are seeing is an increase in the waiting lists of approximately 1 person per day. It would have been higher than 1 per day had the MR Waiver slots not been appropriated in last year's budget.

The Arc of Virginia supports budget amendment for 670 additional MR Waiver slots. If funded, it would provide MR Waivers services for one half of those on the urgent care waiting list. A companion budget amendment for the start-up funding for those 670 slots is critical to the success of getting those slots on-line in a timely manner.

We feel it is imperative to have another rate increase to support providers of services. After all, there will be no services without providers.

And, last but not least, the need for a Northern Virginia differential has gotten to a point where people are being moved from that area in order to receive services. MR Waiver, DD and Day Support Waivers are the only waiver services which don't have a Northern Virginia differential. Just a glance at the urgent care wait list (attached) for the Northern Virginia CSB's paints a picture for funding the Northern Virginia differential.

Thank you for your continued support of *A Life Like Yours* for people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities!