

YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

CALL THE GOVERNOR, YOUR LOCAL ASSEMBLYMEMBER AND SENATOR TODAY!

*We have made great strides advocating in 2023. But more work needs to be done on our part. In conjunction with other chapters in our region, which goes from Putnam County to the Canadian border, we are participating in the 2024 "Regional Phone Blitz". We need to raise our voices and advocate for the people we support with I/DD in Columbia, Greene, Putnam and Ulster Counties. Below are the phone numbers for our Governor, and your local Assemblymember and Senator. We ask that you call each of them (you can call nights or weekends and leave a message). Once you are finished with making your calls, please email Lori Ferraro at Lori.Ferraro@arcmh.org, and in the subject line type: **DONE!***

SCRIPT:

Hello <insert name of person who responds>, my name is _____, and I reside at: _____ and I am a _____ <give example of who you are and share more specific details concisely: parent \ staff member \ supporter \ board member of>...The Arc Mid-Hudson - Chapter of The Arc New York.

I am asking you to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We have a real workforce crisis, with a nearly 20% vacancy rate for Direct Support Professionals, or DSPs, in our region. The Governor's Budget is proposing a meager 1.5% COLA, when we need the full 3.2% just to meet current inflation. We ask for a Wage Enhancement of \$4000 equating to \$2.19/hr. to help bridge this gap.

Without the necessary workforce, New York fails in supporting people with I/DD. As your constituent, I am asking you to speak up to your leadership and make this a top priority for inclusion in your one-house budget bills and change the budget! THANK YOU!

John McHugh
Chief Executive Officer
The Arc Mid-Hudson