

Sharing Your Story with School District, County, State, and National Policymakers

Sharing your story with policymakers is an effective way to help them understand how programs and services work for you or your family, and it may convince them to support adequate funding for those services.

To put together your story, use the following questions as a guide:

- What diagnoses, special needs, or challenges do you (or your loved one) have? *(Policymakers want to know what makes you unique.)*
- In what city, and in what setting (parents' home, own home, group home, etc.) do you live? *(Policymakers want to know if you live in their county, district, or state.)*
- Which supports do you receive, and how frequently are those supports provided? What positive difference do those supports make? How do your services give you greater control over your life? *(Policymakers want to know that funding for supports is used efficiently to improve lives.)*
- Have your supports been cut? If so, are you less independent or more removed from your community? *(Policymakers need to know that budget cuts impact lives.)*
- What out-of-pocket expenses do you (or your family members) pay over and above what you spend on others in your household? *(Policymakers want to know that you are not asking for "more," but that you need supports to have the same opportunities as individuals without disabilities.)*

Keep your story short – one page if possible. If you print your story, include a photo of the person with a disability or your family. You may want to provide a fact sheet listing The Arc Minnesota's public policy priorities or explaining the issue you highlight in your story.

Produced by The Arc Minnesota Civic Engagement Team

www.arcmn.org

mail@arcmn.org

www.facebook.com/arcmn

651-523-0823 or 1-800-582-5256

March 2011--jb

