

2026 legislative priorities

Protect people. No cuts to services.

Reject the governor's proposal to change eligibility requirements for IDD care, starting in FY28. Because of changes at the federal level, the state is looking at cuts to our social safety net and Medicaid services tailored for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

About 2,500 people with IDD would be dropped from care. Cuts cause crisis and trauma, expensive recovery costs, and unnecessary hospitalization. Institutional care is more than triple the cost of community care. We need:

- Safe, affordable, and accessible housing
- Reliable access to food & healthcare
- Tailored supports to live in the community, including residential support, personal care; supported employment and community inclusion; respite; life skills and other essential services.

Pass progressive revenue.

We need to strengthen our revenue base to provide the support we all need.

Our state has had deep cracks in its financial foundation for years. We know this at The Arc, because budget writers often struggle to fund and stabilize care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Now, the state is also looking at losing billions in federal Medicaid funding over the next 10 years.

We need to **secure our financial foundation** with progressive revenue to cover the care and social safety net Washington needs to thrive.

End isolation & reduce restraint of students.

Restraining and isolating someone in distress does not resolve behavior. Safe relationships, co-regulation, and skill-building do. **SHB 1795** bans certain dangerous restraint practices and steers us toward continued elimination of isolation. Isolation and restraint are deeply harmful to students' mental health and interfere with the skill-building they need to identify and resolve problems so they can thrive in school and later as adults.

We know from neuroscience that Isolation not only interrupts essential relationship building, it pushes anxious kids already in flight or fight mode into escalating cycles of dysregulation. Cycles that children take with across their K-12 years and that can lead to complex PTSD.

We need to pivot to what works: Safe relationships, a safe environment, and support to build skills or process trauma. This is work the state has been supporting for years through our **social and emotional learning** framework, **inclusionary practices**, and **multi-tiered systems of support**. More recently, the state launched **demonstration sites to eliminate isolation**.

Priority bills we are tracking

SENATE

SB 5681 – (Cortes) Concerning the age at which clients of the developmental disabilities administration may receive employment and community inclusion services.

SB 5863 – (Kauffman) Preserves historic records of Lakeland Village, the state's first IDD institution.

SB 5969 – (Cortes) Directs alignment between IEP platform being built and High School and Beyond Plans

SB 6024 – (Gildon) Streamlining monitoring and oversight activities related to community residential service business providers.

SB 6163 – (Braun) Eliminates IDD waiting lists Moves certain IDD services into the maintenance budget (IFS waiver).

SB 6268 – (Harris) Maintaining an online record of special education complaint decisions.

HOUSE

HB 1390 – (Goodman) Repealing the Community Protection Program; shifts people to tailored supports

HB 1795 – (Callan) Reducing isolation and restraint in public schools

HB 2230 – (Zahn) Streamlines reporting that Supported Living community residential programs need to do

HB 2319 – (Farvar) Renaming certain state residential facilities for persons with developmental disabilities.

HB 2337 – (Barnard) Makes it easier for family members to work as caregivers. 12 hours of continuing education available, not required

HB 2350 – (Farvar) Increasing transparency regarding Residential Habilitation Center compliance with certain federal requirements.

HB 2557 – (Chase) Providing parental access to special education evaluation reports.