

# Template for Telling Your Story to Legislators



(Insert Individual or Family Photo Here)

(Insert Name or The \_\_\_\_\_ Family)

(You can replace the logo above with your local chapter of the Arc if you prefer.)

- ***Write a brief paragraph describing yourself, your family, & your challenges, or write about the successes and/or challenges of supporting your child with intellectual or other developmental disabilities.***
- ***Describe the issue:***
  - ✓ Give specific example(s) of a personal success, challenge, support system, services, etc.
  - ✓ Describe the value (cost savings, quality-of-life improvement, etc.) of the example above. Describe what will happen without the support, law, funding, services, etc.
  - ✓ If your example/issue is related to funding, be sure to list any out-of-pocket expenses that you or your family pays over and above what is typical.
- ***Summarize your story, and “ask” for what you want (support a program, reform a system, maintain funding, support a particular piece of legislation, etc.). If you ask to support a piece of legislation, be sure to include the bill number (for example, HF 1034 or SF 273). Include one of The Arc Minnesota’s legislative key messages:***
  - ✓ *We want a system that empowers people with disabilities and their families.*
  - ✓ *We want a system of supports that meets the needs of people with disabilities and their families.*
  - ✓ *We must change state policies and funding to make our system of disability supports more sustainable over the long-term, including raising revenues fairly.*
- ***Close your story as you would end a letter.***

Sincerely,  
Name  
Contact Info  
(List address, because policymakers like to know that you live in their area.)

*(Keep this letter to one page; you can always provide additional info such as The Arc’s position statement on an issue if needed.)*