The Arc Joins Appellate Court Amicus Brief Outlining Critical Importance of ACA for People with Disabilities

Washington, DC - The Arc has joined an amicus brief filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in the case Texas v. United States. The brief supports the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) and asks the Fifth Circuit to reverse a lower court ruling from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas finding the law unconstitutional.

The brief outlines how the ACA has been essential to overcoming the disproportionate impact that America’s health care crisis has had on people with disabilities, and how it is uniquely difficult for people with disabilities to obtain affordable and adequate health insurance coverage despite depending on health care services more than those without disabilities.

“This phenomenon has resulted in the unjust reality that the individuals who need health care the most have the most challenging time obtaining it. Removing the ACA’s protections would reverse the gains that people with disabilities have realized since the ACA became law and return those with disabilities to a cruel reality in which affordable insurance lacks the breadth and depth of coverage for vital services and is difficult to obtain,” said Peter Berns, CEO, The Arc.

Specifically, the brief explains how the ACA has expanded access to health insurance for people with disabilities by creating state-based marketplaces for private health insurance; expanding the scope and affordability of coverage by requiring health plans to offer certain essential benefits; prohibiting discrimination against individuals based on health status and exclusions on the basis of pre-existing conditions; and expanding eligibility for and the types of services covered by Medicaid. The brief argues that “declaring the ACA unconstitutional in its entirety will uniquely and extensively harm [the disability] community.”

“The ACA, which makes robust, affordable health care coverage possible for people with disabilities, is at risk in this lawsuit. We can’t go back to a time when people with disabilities and their families lived in fear of losing the coverage they had or went without access to the health care services that made life in the community possible. We remain committed to fighting for these rights for people with disabilities,” said Berns.

The Arc advocates for and serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), including Down syndrome, autism, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, cerebral palsy and other diagnoses. The Arc has a network of over 600 chapters across the country promoting and protecting the human rights of people with I/DD and actively supporting their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes and without regard to diagnosis.
From the Director’s Desk

The Arc of East Central Iowa will be embarking on a strategic planning process, which is designed to capitalize on our core mission, values and purpose while adapting to the ever-changing world of disability services in Iowa.

This important process will help us to identify long and short term goals that will help to shape our course of action for the next three years. The plan will provide guidance in fulfilling our mission with maximum efficiency and impact. A strategic plan isn’t meant to be a crystal ball that predicts the future. Instead, we need to plan for stainability regardless of unforeseen changes. Jimmy Dean said “I can’t change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.” The Arc values and encourages input from all persons and organizations.

To that end we will be holding various focus groups to gather opinions, ideas, and insights as part of our strategic planning process. If you are interested in helping us to develop our plan, please contact me at aarmknecht@arceci.org. Input from the entire community will be instrumental in establishing a plan that is relevant to our future direction and priorities.

Anne Armknecht, MBA HC
Executive Director

Community Resource

Do You Need Help With:

- Job applications?
- Resume writing?*
- Obtaining an education?
- Applying for Food Stamps, Family Investment Program, or Child Care Assistance?
- Finding resources?
- Healthcare Navigation?*
- Financial Literacy assistance?*
- Knowing if you qualify for energy assistance or other income-based support payments?
- Transportation for work or school?
- Feeding your family?

The Opportunity Center at Ladd Library can help!

Call or email Carol O’Brien at 319-739-0456 or opportunitycenter@crlibrary.org.

Mondays: 9 am - 4 pm
Tuesdays: 9 am - 7 pm
Wednesdays: 9 am - 4 pm
Thursdays: 11 am - 7 pm
Fridays: 9 am - 1 pm

*Requires an appointment in advance

Anne Armknecht
Executive Director
Who Are The Guys From Journey Of Hope?

Each summer for many years now we have had the honor of hosting about 40 young men from the group The Ability Experience - Journey of Hope. What you may not know is who they are and what they do.

In 1987, one man’s dream of riding his bike across the country came true. What he did not know was the inspiration and motivation his trek across America would give to The Ability Experience. The very next year his ride inspired The Ability Experience to create the largest fraternal fundraising and awareness event of its kind, the Journey of Hope.

Today the Journey of Hope covers 32 different states, cycling over 12,000 miles combined, it is solely comprised of members of Pi Kappa Phi and continues to spread a message of acceptance and understanding for people with disabilities. These guys spend the year fundraising for individuals with disabilities across the country. Then in May they embark on their designated route (there’s a North team that visits us, a South team that hits the southern states and a TransAmerica team that hits a little bit of everywhere). Along the routes the guys stay with a local host who provides them with a dinner and then the guys go out for their Friendship visit to the various organizations, such as The Arc, to have fun with those with disabilities. This summer the group of men from Journey of Hope- North Route, will arrive here in Cedar Rapids the afternoon of July 16th where they will relax for a little while before enjoying dinner and then a dance in the evening with our consumers. Once the dance wraps up, most of the guys go straight to bed and get ready for the next day’s ride to Iowa City. Having the guys come support us and spend time with us is a highlight for many of our consumers and families every summer. We hope that if you see the guys you say hi to them, maybe even thank them for their efforts, but even better come join us at our dance on Tuesday, July 16th. More details on that will be coming out shortly.

For more information on The Ability Experience you can go to: https://abilityexperience.org/programs/journey-of-hope/

The Arc’s Night With The Kernels

This year The Arc’s Night with the Cedar Rapids Kernels will be held on Saturday, July 27th at Veterans Memorial Stadium. We will watch the Kernels take on the Clinton Lumberjacks. Game time is 6:35 pm and gates open at 5:30 pm with fireworks following the game.

In past years you may have noticed that it’s also the ADA Celebration Night with the Kernels. This year will be no different. It is a night where we all celebrate the historical signing and meaning behind the ADA. As part of that, there are dignitaries there from city, county, state and federal levels of the government who want to hear from you. So this year when you arrive to the game, look for the dignitaries or their representative. You can ask an ADA Celebration team member (they will be wearing t-shirts to distinguish themselves) where the dignitaries are, and talk to them if you have any thoughts or concerns.

Tickets for The Arc’s Night with the Kernels will go on sale in mid-June so watch for more information to come! For more information on the Linn County ADA Celebration or our Arc Night with the Kernels you can contact Lexi at LCoberly@arceci.org.
Achieve With Us

The Arc’s
Unified Softball

Come cheer on our players!
Games will be held Tuesday evenings from June 4th thru July 23rd at Ellis Park in Cedar Rapids.
Games start at either 6:00, 7:00, or 8:00 pm.
Complete schedule will be posted to www.arceci.org once released.

Ice Cream Social &
Family Fun Night

All friends and families of The Arc are invited to join us. There will be games, karaoke, treats, and ice cream for all!
Sponsored by the Staff & Congregation of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church.

Wednesday, June 12th
6:30 - 8:00 pm
St. Mark’s Lutheran Church
8300 C Ave. NE • Marion

Please RSVP to Derek by June 7th at dxayasouk@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1056.

Project SEARCH
Graduation!

Please join us as we say CONGRATULATIONS to this year’s 2019 Project SEARCH graduates!

June 7th, 2019
Social Time: 3:30 - 4:00 PM
Ceremony: 4:00 PM
St. Luke’s Center for Women’s & Children’s Health

John Deere Classic
Birdies for Charity

We are a participating charity!

Chip in for your chance to win some great prizes while helping out your favorite charity, The Arc! We receive every single penny of your donation plus their 5% - 10% bonus!
Simply make a one-time flat donation OR pledge one cent or more per birdie.
After the tournament, you’ll be mailed a notice of your pledge amount due.
Please stop in for a brochure and your pledge card or go online to our Events page at www.arceci.org to download or make your pledge.
(Bird Number 1459)

Annual Raffle

Support The Arc and YOU could be a winner!
Purchase your raffle tickets today for your chance to win one of our great packages!
• Kansas City Getaway •
• St. Louis Getaway •
• Kid Fun Package •
• Sports Package •
• Visit Omaha •
• Tour Iowa •
...plus more!

Save the Date
for these Upcoming Events!

• Arc Night at the Kernels •
Saturday, July 27th

• Sunday Fun Day •
Sunday, September 8th

• Annual Meeting •
& Awards Night
Tuesday, September 24th

Annual Raffle

Drawing to be held June 21st. Need not be present to win.

Please contact Lexi at lcoberly@arceci.org or 319-365-0487 ext. 1024 for questions.

Project | SEARCH
Thank you for all of your continued generous contributions to The Arc. We will continue to recognize volunteers, donations and members in the quarterly editions of The Challenger newsletter. February - April 2019.

Volunteers  Hours - 379.5

Memorials
Lorla McNamara
Karen Bachman
David & Ethan Mortensen
Elaine & Bryan Bailey, Leigh Benish, Barry & Nancy Brown, Rebecca Bruggman, Kyle Getz, Rebecca Ofensend, Widyasita Sawyer, Anita & Joseph Sperflasige, Christine & Patrick Weisman, Carol Wozniak-Rebuhn

Membership
Arc Builder
Wayne Breckon, Don & Gwen Eells, David Schulz, Sharon Wagner, Phil & Laura White, Keith Wright, Zachary Zenk
Arc Friend
Tom & Kathleen Aller, Dianne Austad, Charles Becker, Scott & JoAnne Carbaugh, Steve Carter, Arie & Peggy Dejong, Ken & Nina Frost, Brad Hauge, Pam Imerman, Gary & Bev Kotowske, Brad Lang, Dorothy Pool, David & Mary Rater, Joel & Sandra Schmidt, Arianne Waseen
Arc Advocate

You Make a Difference

Medicaid/LTSS: President Signs MFP Extension
On April 18, President Trump signed the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019 (H.R. 1839) into law. This bill adds an additional $20 million for the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program through September 30, 2019. MFP has helped more than 88,000 seniors and individuals with disabilities move out of nursing homes and institutions. Independent evaluations have proven that MFP improves the quality of life for individuals and has reduced Medicaid and Medicare expenditures by approximately 23%. The Arc strongly supports reauthorization of MFP. Additionally, the bill extends Medicaid’s spousal impoverishment protections for home and community based services beneficiaries until September 30. The spousal impoverishment protection allows the spouse of a Medicaid long term services and supports (LTSS) beneficiary to maintain a modest amount of income and resources for food, rent, and medication.

Elvina Peterson
James & Christine Merulla
Sara Smith
Ryan Smith

Thank You
General Donations
Grant Bauermeister, Teri Copler, Michael & Cora Engelken (M&C Engelken Fund), Vance & Debra Hinrichs, Walter & Ida Kansky Charitable Trust, McIntyreFoundation, Metro H.O.G. 1362, Beverly Mullin, Sandra & Tim Schneekloth, Amanda Shakespeare, Veridian Credit Union, Ashley Wagel, David Wenzel

MAJOR RECENT EVENT
**Consumer Spotlight**

**Jared Roach**

Hi, my name is Jared and I am 27 years old and I live in Cedar Rapids. I have an older sister, Becky, and a younger sister, Alyssa. I have two dogs, Penny and Scooter, and a cat, Elsie.

**My Favorite Arc Activity:**
I like to put on my sunglasses and walk to the YMCA to play racquetball.

**My Favorite Arc Memory:**
I got to bring Tootsie Rolls to Whitney and work at the library with Dayhab.

**My Favorite Outside Activity:**
I like to do yard work with mom and play wiffle ball with dad.

**My Favorite Hobbies:**
I like to do dot-to-dot books and I can do them with several hundred numbers!

**My Favorite Food:**
Burritos!

I like to hang out with my respite workers and I like to visit my dad. I also enjoy watching golf with my step-dad, Rick.

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**Did you know that The Arc of East Central Iowa has a Facebook page?**

If not, you should logon and check it out.

Go to: https://www.facebook.com/arceci/

What will you see once you “Like” our page?

On there we post about upcoming Arc events, share relevant community events, post reminders about when we are closed, plus share information that’s important to our families, staff and the community. Best of all - we share pictures, lots of pictures, of our consumers and staff so you can see what’s all going on with them and all of the fun exciting things that they are doing.

If you haven’t yet, stop on over and take a look at it, and “Like” our page to keep up-to-date on all you need to know with us! In fact, we’re so sure you’ll “Like” what you see that you’ll want to “Share” our page with your friends and family! Spread the word so that they too can see what’s all going on at The Arc of East Central Iowa.

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**Wish List**

From every day items to special requests. We are always in need of items to keep our office and programs running. Donations can be dropped off at The Arc’s main office anytime. Thank you for your support!

**Kitchen Needs**
- Paper Towels / Paper Plates
- Ziploc Bags (Gallon & Sandwich Size)
- Plastic Spoons & Forks / Plastic Wrap
- Scrubbers For Washing Dishes
- Digital Kitchen Timer

**Snack/Cooking Activity Items**
- 100% Juice / Cake Pans
- Snack Crackers (Whole Wheat)

**General Supplies**
- Baby & Disinfectant Wipes / Kleenex
- Dish Soap / Bleach / Garbage Bags
- Hand Sanitizer, Soap, Soap Refills
- Travel Size Febreeze / Lint Rollers

**Office Supplies**
- Sharpies / Ink Pens (blue/black ink)
- #2 Pencils & Pencil Top Erasers
- Dry Erase Markers & Erasers
- Composition Notebooks
- Plastic/Paper Folder (2 pocket)
- 3-Ring Binders (2-inch)
- Coloring Pencils & Washable Markers
- Masking Tape / Painters Tape
- White Construction Paper
- Pocket Dictionaries

**Program Needs**
- Batteries (AA, C and D)
- Dolls/Barbies/Transformers/Dinosaurs
- Star Wars & Marvel Toys
- Adult Coloring Books
- Kids Coloring/Activity Books
  - (Super Hero/Contemporary)
- Card Games (SkipBo, UNO, Regular Cards)
- Board Games For Teens/Adults
  - (Scattergories, Pay Day, Life, Clue, Heads Up!)
- CDs (Kid Music, Nursery Rhymes)
- Karaoke CDs (w/ Vocals)
- Legos (Ages 8+) / Kinex
- Whiffle Ball & Bat Set

**Clothes**
- Towels (Bath or Beach)
- Teenage Sized Shorts/Swimsuits
  - (Boys & Girls - Draw Strings or Elastic)
- Dress Up Clothes (Various Sizes)
- Travel Size Deodorant (Mens & Womens)
- Travel Size Combs / Hair Brushes
- Travel Size Toothpaste/Toothbrush/Brush Holder

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Choose The Arc of East Central Iowa as your beneficiary when shopping on smile.amazon.com. At no cost to you, Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price to The Arc of East Central Iowa.

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www.thearc.org

Identify The Arc of East Central Iowa and we will receive 90% of proceeds. Program administered by Melwood Co. in cooperation with The Arc of the US

CLEAN YOUR CLOSETS SUPPORT THE ARC

Use the following number to donate in support of The Arc of East Central Iowa

Arc # 1957 - 252 Blairs Ferry Rd NE, Cedar Rapids
More information please call 319-365-0487
No appointment needed when contributing to a Non-profit

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Please contact us at 319-365-0487 for more details!

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Flexible hours • Work with a variety of ages
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Applications are available at The Arc or online at www.arceci.org. Please return to HumanResources@arceci.org or 680 2nd Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401

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Mission Statement
The Arc of East Central Iowa empowers people with intellectual and related disabilities to engage in lifelong opportunities to live, learn, work, and play with dignity, freedom and full inclusion in their communities.

Make a Difference
Donate at www.arceci.org

The Arc’s 29th Annual Golf Tournament

Register Now at www.arceci.org
Registration deadline is June 4th

Thursday, June 13th, 2019
Hunters Ridge Golf Course
Marion, Iowa

Tee-time 12:30 PM

JOIN US AS WE GOLF FOR A CAUSE!