
Governmental Affairs Update

Governor Murphy recently took action on two pieces of legislation that impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The first, S2517, establishes a program to adopt paratransit best practices, requiring greater coordination among paratransit service providers, and establishing regional paratransit coordinating councils. The Arc of New Jersey supported this legislation at multiple committee meetings throughout the process and we applaud the Governor for signing it into law. Accessible and reliable transportation is essential for people with I/DD to participate in employment, access social opportunities and engage with peers. We believe this legislation will help to remove current transportation hurdles.

Additionally, Governor Murphy signed S864 which prohibits the use of single-use plastic and paper bags in all stores and food service businesses statewide. This bill is of importance to those we represent, because it also impacts the availability of plastic straws which some individuals with I/DD depend on in order to drink. The Arc of New Jersey advocated for changes to the initial version of the bill to make sure plastic straws would still be available to people who need them. In the final law, food service businesses will need to provide single-use plastic straws upon request. This will go into effect starting November 2021.