

Governmental Affairs Update - December

The Arc of New Jersey, in our second year as Chair of the Coalition for a DSP Living Wage, advocated for increased wages in the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget for the state's Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) at the Department of Human Services Budget Listening Session on December 1. The Coalition is continuing year two of its five-year campaign to increase salaries by \$1.25 an hour for the hardworking staff who support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the workforce. If you have not done so already, please be sure to follow the Coalition for news and updates on both [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

In addition to our ongoing Budget work, The Arc of New Jersey was at the State House in November to support S2877/A1463. This legislation would establish a New Jersey Caregiver Task Force to evaluate and provide recommendations on caregiver support services. As November was National Family Caregivers Month, this was a timely bill and another opportunity for The Arc of New Jersey to stress with legislators the importance of families and the services they need to support a loved with I/DD in the community. The legislation was heard in the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee. It passed unanimously and will now continue its way through the legislative process.