ADVOCACY WORKS!

While advocacy encompasses a broad range of activities in our communities, schools and even among service providers, **Legislative Advocacy** is an effort by an individual or group which aims to influence public policy and opinion; and resource allocation decisions within political, economic and social systems.

TOGETHER WE CAN!

Did you know that DSANI is affiliated with, and partners with, many great organizations who advocate for individuals who live with Down syndrome and their families? Together, these organizations work with DSANI, its members and others to make a difference for individuals at the legislative level. Legislators count on input and feedback from DSANI and these partner organizations to gain insight into what is important to individuals, families and their community.

A RECENT GREAT VICTORY!!

This past month, we received great news from a number of organizations that, after nearly a year of advocacy, the American Rescue Plan Act had passed the House and Senate with all the top COVID-19 priorities that were being requested. The Act was then signed into law on March 11, 2021 by President Biden. The new law was a great collaborative victory for many reasons. It included items such as dedicated funding for Medicaid Home & Community Based Services (HCBS), additional funding for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), financial relief for all dependents with Down syndrome, and many other things that will help individuals with disabilities.

BUT WE'RE NOT DONE!!!

If there's anything we've learned through many years of advocating, it's that **every voice is important and powerful**. The more citizens that legislators hear from, the more they will understand what is important to individuals, their families and communities. DSANI and its partner organizations have always made it easy for everyone to get involved and reach out to their legislators. Some organizations even provide easy-to-use templates for each legislative effort. **Check out the links and information in this document to find out how to sign up for alerts, join committees and get involved. Together, we can advocate and make a difference!!**

Sources: National Down Syndrome Society, Center for Public Representation, congress.gov, wikipedia.com

DSANI
DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION of Northeast Indiana

GET INVOLVED

Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana
www.dsani.org
Join DSANI to receive info, newsletters, committee opportunities and event info: DSANI Advocacy

National Down Syndrome Society
www.ndss.org
Sign up for NDSS Advocacy Alerts

National Down Syndrome Congress
www.ndsccenter.org
Sign up for NDSC Action Alerts

The Arc of Indiana
www.arcin.org
Sign up for The Arc Action Alerts

Global Down Syndrome Foundation
www.globaldownsyndrome.org
Check out their Advocacy Page

Turnstone
www.turnstone.org
Check out their Website and Services

National Association for Down Syndrome
www.nads.org
Sign up for the NADS Newsletter

For more information, contact
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