



Achieve with us.®

29 British American Blvd.
1st Floor Latham, NY 12110
518-439-8311
thearcny.org

Daniel Martindale
President

Erik Geizer
Chief Executive Officer

Executive Committee

Susan Lucas
Senior Vice President/Vice
President, Capital-Hudson Valley-
Adirondack Region

Walter Hogan
Vice President Central Region

Sharon Boyd
Vice President Western Region

Steven Masket
Vice President Metro Region

Joe Magliocca
Assistant Vice President, Capital-
Hudson Valley-Adirondack Region

Ellen Feldman
Assistant Vice President
Central Region

John Huber
Assistant Vice President
Western Region

John Smith
Assistant Vice President
Metro Region

Maureen Louis
Secretary

Steven Drobysch
Treasurer

Deborah Pflieger
Assistant Treasurer

Donald Geer
Member-at-Large

Dr. John Kowalczyk
Immediate Past President

July 23, 2025

Rep. Nicholas LaLota
122 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Andrew Garbarino
2344 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Nicole Malliotakis
1124 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Claudia Tenney
2230 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Michael Lawler
324 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Elise Stefanik
2211 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Nick Langworthy
422 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Representatives:

The Arc New York is the largest not-for-profit provider of services for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (IDD) in New York state. We support more than 60,000 individuals with disabilities, comprising more than one-third of New York's most vulnerable citizens, and provide services in every single county of the state, including those you represent. Medicaid provides nearly all the funding for these vital services.

In addition to individuals with IDD, our organization employs approximately 30,000 people, which includes thousands of constituents who work and/in or live in your districts. These employees are the backbone of our system. In fact, more than 70% of the Medicaid funding for our system goes directly to staff wages and benefits. Because the funding that supports these vital roles is already limited, many of our frontline staff make only slightly more than minimum wage. This means that many of our employees are also likely to receive some benefits from Medicaid, including SNAP and Head Start programs.

A family-based organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Your vote in favor of the Budget Reconciliation Bill, signed by President Trump on July 4, 2025, raises significant concerns for our organization about your support for New Yorkers who receive Medicaid, particularly New Yorkers with disabilities and those who work in our field. The shortfall in federal dollars to New York will result in difficult decisions and could very likely result in the legislature coming back to address these challenges in the current fiscal year. The impacts of your decisions will start sooner than effective date timelines suggest and any suggestion of a second reconciliation package that makes more structural changes to Medicaid should be decisively rejected.

The NYS Department of Health is projecting a combined \$13.5 billion annual deficit for New York when combined with the loss of federal funding and increased state expenditures related to Medicaid. Cuts to federal Medicaid funding of this scope will jeopardize New York's ability to sustain these vital programs. Providers of supports and services for people with IDD will inevitably face downstream impacts from decisions made in Washington. While the goal of protecting our most vulnerable citizens is noble, we expect significant and negative fiscal consequences on the horizon.

Attached is a slide deck from DOH and Medicaid Director during their recent regional briefing. The video of that briefing can be found [here](#) and provides insight to where our fiscal footing stands and how it will impact each congressional district. There is an additional summary from Brown & Weinraub that outlines certain aspects of the signed legislation as it pertains to New York.

On the horizon, Congress is starting to make decisions about how much funding each program will get next year. The President's budget proposal is the starting point of this process, and it recommends cuts to programs that millions of people with disabilities and their families rely on. If Congress adopts the President's proposal, it would eliminate funding for key programs under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (DD Act). This includes programs that support access to inclusive education, employment, community living, and more.

The proposal also includes policies that would weaken the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) by combining multiple funding streams into a "block grant." Early intervention for children with disabilities has clearly demonstrated positive outcomes for children and families alike.

This change could lead to:

- Cuts to preschool programs for young children with disabilities.
- Less federal support for special education teachers, counselors, therapists, and paraprofessionals.
- Fewer training opportunities for staff to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

Simply stated, we need you to stand up against the erosion of supports for people with IDD and other disabilities. These programs must be resourced appropriately and not gutted to a mere shell. Education for children with IDD is already woefully underfunded. A Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is supposed to be a guaranteed right and should not be seen as an opportunity to reduce spending.

We look forward to hearing that your previously stated commitment to support people with IDD and our workforce still stands. Pushing costs to the states will indeed impact us and all of your constituents. In the coming months and years, the impacts of your actions will be increasingly known. It is my hope that we can continue to work together, be an informative influence, and choose people over politics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Geizer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Erik Geizer
CEO