

### Congressional Recess is Over...Now What?!

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# Home and Community-Based Services



- American Rescue Plan Act Funding- one year, states currently working on spending plans.
- Better Care Better Jobs Act

- Currently included in Budget Reconciliation
- Need to get the number UP

### Access to Services AND Workforce



### The Funding would:

- Facilitate statewide planning to develop HCBS infrastructure improvement plans;
- •Enhance Medicaid funding for HCBS by providing states a permanent increase in federal Medicaid match if they expand access to HCBS and strengthen the HCBS workforce
- •Incentivize workforce growth through innovative models that benefit direct care workers and care recipients as well as help workers organize;
- •Support quality and accountability by funding programs through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and conducting oversight and offering technical assistance
- •Permanently authorize protection against impoverishment for individuals whose spouses received Medicaid HCBS, as well as the Money Follows the Person program to support individuals transitioning from institutions to home or community-based settings.

# Supplemental Security Income (SSI)



The SSI Restoration Act (S.2065 / H.R.3824)

- SSI in the Build Back Better package
- Why not SSDI or other Social Security benefits?
- Will this impact HCBS advocacy?

### **Paid Leave**



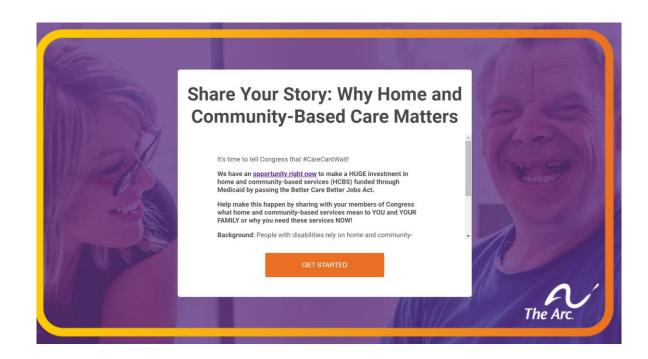
- Important questions remain
  - Which family members will be included?
  - Will the same amount of caregiving and medical leave be available?
  - Can people take the amount they need when they need it?
- Your advocacy matters!



# Advocacy Tools & Resources

# #1 Ask!!!! STORIES!!!!!!!!







https://p2a.co/zc2H8lN

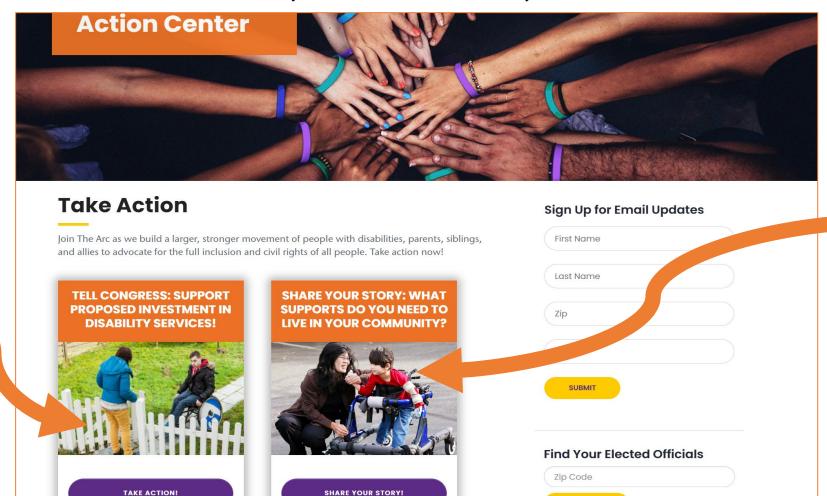
thearc.org/action

# #2 Ask: Calls, Emails, Tweets

Calls, Emails,

**Tweets** 





Stories

TheArc.org/Action

### Resources:

### TheArc.org/covid19recovery

- Key issues outlined
- Plain language HCBS, Paid leave + SSI fact sheets (\*Spanish language\* coming soon!)
- Link to Action Alerts
- State-specific fact sheets





### I Leave for All

### A Historic Investment in Disability Services

For years, the service system that people with intellectual and development disabilities (IDD) and their families rely on, Medicaid, has needed an update. People are stuck on waiting lists for home and community-based services, the direct care workforce is underpaid, and too often, unpaid family caregivers are filling in the gaps in service.

The Arc.

Why The Wait? Word Doc | PDF

Workforce 101 Word Doc | PDF

If passed, the 2021 Better Care Better Jobs Act will make a big impact on disability services. Learn more about how this investment would impact care in your state!



## Resources:



### **Drop Box Toolkit**

(https://bit.ly/3l8ygsG)

- Social media posts and graphics (refreshing!)
- Letters to the editor
- Links to resources and alerts

### **Videos**

- HCBS 101 video
   (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zs5iNLQUblQ)
- Personal story videos:
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCvmsgD\_xas
  - https://www.youtube. com/watch?v=5AkkHS3 CoNo
- HCBS personal story video coming soon!

### Social Media

- #WeActWednesday
- #CareCantWait





### Recess Congressional Reporting Reminder:



https://thearcus.surveymonkey.com/r/AugRec21Report







# THANK YOU for all of your advocacy!!!