



Telling Your Personal Story...to create change...

Make community a priority!

Critical community based services and supports are cost effective and enhance community living for all.

FIRST: Who represents you? Find out here: <http://www.fvi.legis.state.tx.us/>

Give your name and where you live (Want to be in the same district as the legislator). If you are a parent, tell the legislator that you are representing your family member and give the name /relationship of your family member with a disability. * If you are representing the Arc or another organization, give the name of the organization and the number of people you are representing from the organization:

How long were you or your loved one on the waiting list? (If you are still waiting, how long have you been waiting?)

What was life like for you/your loved one during the waiting period (Give details here!)?

What program do you or your loved one currently receive?

How has the programs services and supports made your/your loved ones life more meaningful (Give details here!)?

Creating opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be included in their communities and make the choices that affect their lives.

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What do you or your loved one do to enhance the community? (Volunteer, work, take care of an aging parent, etc...)

Describe how you /your loved one's life would be negatively affected if services were cut after having waited so long; how devastating would it be to you/your loved one? (i.e. go into a more expensive institution, end up in the emergency room, lose a job, lose home, face possibility of divorce—)

Thank the legislator for their time!

**If it is not already in writing, follow up with this information in writing to the legislator!*

**Attach a photo of yourself or loved one if possible! ("Get to the policy makers heart before you get to their head." -Bobby Silverstein)*