



## Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council

The Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council is an independent agency funded by the federal government working to help people with developmental disabilities enjoy full and productive lives. The Council serves legislators and policymakers as an impartial educational resource to inform public policy at both state and federal levels. We bring together lawmakers with advocates to ensure people with developmental disabilities and their families are included in policy decisions impacting their lives.

100 Hancock Street, Suite 201, Quincy, MA 02171

Tel: 617.770.7676

[www.mass.gov/mddc](http://www.mass.gov/mddc)

Facebook: @MassDDCouncil Twitter: @MA\_DDC



## The Arc of Massachusetts

The mission of The Arc of Massachusetts is to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism, and their families. We fulfill this through advocacy for community supports and services that foster social inclusion, self-determination, and equity across all aspects of society. The Arc of Massachusetts assists families, its chapters and other disability organizations to sort through the maze of government bureaucracy and provide them with information on the newest and best practices to improve current services.

217 South Street, Waltham, MA 02453

Tel: 781.891.6270

[www.hearcofmass.org](http://www.hearcofmass.org)

Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: @TheArcofMass

## 40th Annual Legislative Reception

The Arc of Massachusetts  
and  
Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council



*Artwork by Dominique*

**Honoring 40 Years of Success:  
Facing an Uncertain Future**

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018  
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

**Massachusetts State House  
Great Hall, 2nd Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts**

## LEGISLATIVE AWARDEES



### State Senator James Eldridge

State Senator Jamie Eldridge has served the Middlesex and Worcester district since January 2009. Sen. Eldridge currently serves as Senate Chair for the Joint Committee on Financial Services, which is responsible for all health insurance legislation. For the current legislative session, Senator Eldridge is a lead sponsor of *An Act Providing Equal Access to the Bureau of Special Education Appeals* and *An Act Improving Access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services*. He is co-sponsoring over a dozen bills to specifically benefit people with developmental disabilities and their families. Senator Eldridge was a prime supporter of the Mental Health Parity bill and the Children's Mental Health bill, to ensure that Massachusetts residents have equal access to mental health services. Eldridge was also lead sponsor on *An Act Relative to Bullying*, which included provisions for children with special needs and passed unanimously in the Senate. Senator Eldridge is the lead Senate sponsor of *An Act Establishing Medicare for All in Massachusetts*, legislation that would provide universal access to quality health care.



### State Representative Denise Garlick

State Representative Denise Garlick serves the 13<sup>th</sup> Norfolk District which includes Needham, Dover and Medfield. Elected in 2010, Rep. Garlick currently serves as the House Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery. Previously, Garlick served as the Chair of the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs, and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Education. Rep. Garlick has been a long-time advocate and leader for Family Support and a powerful ally since the inception of the Supporting Families Campaign. Garlick has co-sponsored many bills including Nicky's Law and Operation House Call and has carried important budget amendments for funding Department of Developmental Services line items. Rep. Garlick's leadership extends to educating new legislators about disability priorities. Her personal experience and nursing background give her unique insight to the demands families and individuals with developmental disabilities face in their daily lives. Representative Garlick and her husband, Russell, live in Needham and are the proud parents of four children.

## *Honoring 40 Years of Success: Facing an Uncertain Future*

**10:30 A.M.: General Registration and Visit Exhibitors**  
Grand Staircase Hall

**11:00 A.M.: Program Begins**  
Great Hall

**Welcome**  
Lauren Beckham Falcone, Emcee, WROR Radio

**Opening Remarks**  
Leo V. Sarkissian, Executive Director  
The Arc of Massachusetts

**Greetings and Proclamation**  
Honorable Charles D. Baker  
Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Legislator of the Year Awards**  
Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council:  
Senator James Eldridge  
*Presented by Senate Ways & Means Chair Karen Spilka*

The Arc of Massachusetts:  
Representative Denise Garlick  
*Presented by Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo (invited)*

**Speaking About the Issues**  
Angela Ortiz, Parent and Founder  
Massachusetts Pediatric Home Nursing Care Campaign

**Call to Action**  
Matthew Bander, Vice-Chairperson  
Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council

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**After the program: Legislator Visits**  
Audience members can stop by the Legislator  
Sign-In Table and pick up packets to deliver to Legislator offices.

**NOTE: Order of program is subject to change.**