



The Arc of Massachusetts 2025–2026 Legislative Agenda

Updated March 2025

The Arc of Massachusetts is the state’s leading advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and autism and their families. For 70 years, The Arc of Massachusetts has fulfilled this mission through advocacy for community supports and services that foster social inclusion, self-determination, and equity across all aspects of society.

Through our advocacy and 17 local chapters across the Commonwealth, we represent and advocate for over 250,000 individuals and families. Our advocacy is directly informed by this community and the workforce that supports them.

Priority Areas

- **Uplifting the Workforce:** The human service field is in the midst of a significant workforce crisis. Staff are often underpaid and have inadequate benefits and training opportunities. This leads to recruitment and retention challenges, while leaving thousands of individuals with IDD and autism on waitlists for services. These programs are critical to connect individuals to their community, grow their skills, and prevent caregiver burnout. The Arc of Massachusetts seeks to uplift the workforce’s wages, benefits, and training, with the goal of improving the availability, quality, and safety of programs.
- **Health Equity:** Healthcare is a fundamental human right, yet gaps exist for many marginalized communities, including individuals with IDD and autism. Many interact with a healthcare system that wasn’t designed for them, struggling to find adequate insurance coverage and available providers who can treat complex medical and behavioral challenges. The Arc of Massachusetts seeks to improve access to quality insurance coverage, meaningful therapies and supports, and increasing access to inclusive healthcare.
- **Community Inclusion and Empowerment:** Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve the right to participate and thrive in their own communities whenever possible. True inclusion requires community support, tailored services, and a society that understands and accepts all. The Arc of Massachusetts seeks to expand access to affordable and accessible housing, meaningful education, reliable transportation, technology tools, family support, and employment opportunities.

Top Legislative Priorities: Uplifting the Workforce

- **H.2104/S.1325:** An Act relative to meeting human service demand by modernizing incentives for the direct care workforce (filed by Rep. Garballey, Rep. Cataldo, and Sen. Feeney)
- **H.752/S.313:** An Act strengthening transitional planning and increasing accountability for persons with disabilities and their families (filed by Rep. Whipps and Sen. Comerford)
- **H.1394/S.886:** An Act relative to family members serving as caregivers (filed by Rep. O'Day and Sen. Lovely)
- **H.243/S.139:** An Act updating terminology and investigative practices related to the protection of persons with disabilities (filed by Rep. Garballey, Rep. Cataldo, and Sen. Keenan) and **S.165:** An Act to update Nicky's Law to protect individuals with disabilities in MassHealth day habilitation programs (filed by Sen. Moore)
- **H.283/S.119:** An Act relative to a loan repayment program for human service workers (filed by Rep. Roy, Rep. Garballey, and Sen. DiDomenico)

Top Legislative Priorities: Health Equity

- **H.242/S.149:** An Act to enhance standards of care for those with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities (filed by Rep. Garballey, Rep. Barber, and Sen. Lewis)
- **H.1351/S.871:** An Act ensuring equal access to medical treatments essential for people with a developmental disability, intellectual disability, or autism (filed by Rep. Barber and Sen. Keenan)
- **H.1360/S.869:** An Act relative to preventing discrimination against persons with disabilities in the provision of health care (filed by Rep. Domb, Rep. Howard, and Sen. Gomez)
- **H.282/S.168:** An Act to increase the safety of individuals with disabilities relying on life-support equipment (filed by Rep. Rogers and Sen. O'Connor)

Top Legislative Priorities: Community Inclusion and Empowerment

- **H.3655/S.2348:** An Act facilitating better interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder (filed by Rep. Domb, Rep. Garballey, and Sen. Comerford)
- **H.2686/S.1741:** An Act relative to police interactions with persons on the autism spectrum (filed by Rep. Rogers and Sen. Moore)
- **H.261/S.155:** An Act relative to supported decision-making agreements for certain adults (filed by Rep. Livingstone, Rep. Finn, and Sen. Lovely)
- **H.256/S.102:** An Act requiring universal changing stations in public buildings (filed by Rep. Lawn, Rep. Garballey, and Sen. Barrett)
- **H.232/S.137:** An Act dignifying individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (filed by Rep. Finn, Rep. Garballey, and Sen. Jehlen)

Contact and More Information

- More information on each priority bill, along with a list of all endorsed bills, is available on our website: thearcofmass.org/bills
- To get involved, please visit our action center: thearcofmass.org/action
- Questions? Contact Nora Bent, Director of Government Affairs and Strategic Partnership, at nbent@arcmass.org