



81st Texas Legislative Wrap Up

Bill Number	Author/Sponsor	Key provisions of legislation	Outcome	What now?
Budget				
SB 1	Senator Ogden/Rep Pitts	State budget for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011.	Signed by the governor	See attachment
Autism				
HB 451	Representative Allen/Senator Lucio	> Amends current statute to require health benefit plans to provide coverage to a child who is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder from the date of diagnosis until the enrollee completes nine years of age.	Signed by the Governor and will become effective on 9/01/09	Monitor implementation through Texas Department of Insurance (TDI).
HB 1574	Representative Thompson/Senator Gallego	> Creates an Autism Resource Program which will provide information, training, and assistance. > Requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to conduct a study to determine the costs and benefits to the state of initiating a pilot program to provide services to adult persons with autism and other related disabilities with similar support needs.	Signed by the governor and will become effective 9/01/09	Monitor implementation through HHSC and work with the Texas Council on Autism and Pervasive Developmental Disorders and other key stakeholders to ensure implementation.
Criminal Justice				
SB 1557	Senator Duncan/Representative Gallego	> Requires the sheriff to report within 72 hours to the magistrate if they establish reasonable cause that a defendant has a mental illness or mental retardation. > If reasonable cause has been established, the magistrate is required to order the local MHMRA or other qualified MHMR expert to collect information to determine if mental illness or mental retardation exists. > requires a written assesment to be provided as to the findings within 30 days. > After the trial court recieves the report they may resume criminal proceedings, resume or initiate competency proceedings, or consider the written assessment during the punishment phase after	Signed by the governor and will become effective 9/01/09	Monitor implementation through TCOOMMI and TDCJ

HB 2093	Representative Driver/Senator Hegar	> Allows the Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (commission) to certify a sheriff, sheriff's deputy, constable, other peace officer, county jailer, or justice of the peace as a special officer for offenders with mental impairments if the person, rather than officer, meets certain criteria.	Signed by the governor and will become effective 9/01/09	Monitor implementation through TCOOMMI and TDCJ
HB 4451	Representative McReynolds/Senator Hinojosa	Commission (TYC) and has a diagnosis of a mental illness or mental retardation eligible to receive continuity of care services from Texas Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical or Mental Impairments (TCOOMMI). > Authorizes TCOOMMI to provide services for a minimum of 90 days but as long as necessary. > Authorizes a child who is receiving continuity of care services during parole from TYC and who is no longer eligible to receive services from a local mental health authority when the child becomes 17 years of age to continue to receive continuity of care services from the office until the child completes their parole.	Signed by the Governor and becomes effective immediately	Monitor implementation through TYC and TCOOMMI
Deaf Blind Multiple disabilities				
SB 37	Senator Zaffirini/Representative Naishtat	> Requires the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) to provide home- and community-based services under the deaf-blind with multiple disabilities waiver program to children under the age of 18 subject to the availability of funds appropriated for that purpose.	Signed by the Governor and becomes effective immediately	Monitor implementation through DADS
SB 63	Senator Zaffirini/Representative Naishtat	> Requires the executive commissioner of HHSC to develop and adopt rules for the development of a career ladder for persons who provide intervener services under the deaf-blind with multiple disabilities waiver program. > Authorizes the executive commissioner to adopt a career ladder under this section based on credentialing standards for interveners developed by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals or any other private credentialing entity. < Requires that the rules provide a system under which each person may be classified based on the person's level of training, education, and experience, as an Intervener, Intervener I, Intervener II, or Intervener III.	Signed by the governor and will become effective 9/01/09	Monitor implementation through HHSC
Education				

SB 90	Senator VandePutte/Representative Geren, et al.	> Enacts the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents.> Requires in compliance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) the receiving state shall initially provide comparable services to a student with disabilities based on his/her current Individualized Education Program (IEP); and in compliance with the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act the receiving state shall make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of incoming students with disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan, to provide the student with equal access to education. > The receiving state may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student.	Signed by the Governor and becomes effective immediately	Monitor implementation through TEA
SB 100	Senator Lucio/Representative Raymond	> Required TEA to develop Professional Development Institutes for teachers and paraprofessionals that address research based services for students with disabilities including disability specific information, effective and scientifically based instructional techniques, and behavior management and provided a stipend for participants. included pilot applied behavior analysis coached/mentored training program	Failed passage; died on House Calendar	Work with TEA to implement pilot version of bill paid for with federal funds and work with legislators and other stakeholder groups to pass next session
HB 171	Representative Olivo/Senator Gallegos	Requires schools to consider the students disability as a mitigating factor when making a decision about suspension, removal to a disciplinary alternative education program or expulsion. This bill eliminates the zero tolerance, my hands are tied stance that some schools have taken based on local policy and hopefully will reduce the number of students with disabilities who are sent to disciplinary placements for discretionary student code of conduct violations.	Signed by the Governor and becomes effective immediately	Monitor implementation through TEA and Texas Appleseed. Work with TEA and legislators on increasing reporting, monitoring and intervention in school districts with disproportion numbers of discipline actions against students with disabilities, seek more training on positive behavior interventions and supports.
SB 451	Senator Van De Putte/Representative Patrick	Requires school districts to provide scientifically research based training for regular education teachers who provide instruction to students with disabilities if the educator does not possess the knowledge and skills necessary to implement the individualized education program developed for a student receiving instruction from the educator.	Signed by the governor and will become effective 9/01/09	Monitor implementation through TEA and teacher groups and explore pre service training for regular education teachers on teaching students with disabilities

HB 828	Representative Hochberg/Senator Watson	> Allows the Commissioner of Education to make grants to school districts to cover the cost of education for students with disabilities. Schools can apply for the grants if they do not have sufficient funds to pay for special education services provided to an individual student or they do not receive sufficient funds to pay for special education services provided for all students with disabilities in the district. > Allows the funds can be used for the cost of training personnel to provide special education services. > The districts who receive funds must provide special education services in the least restrictive environment.	Amended to HB 3646 which was signed by the governor and effective 9/01/09	Monitor implementation through TEA and work to secure additional funding next session
SB 987	Senator Shapiro/Representative Susan King	> Required transition planning for students with disabilities begin not later than when the student turns 14 years of age. > The current requirement is to begin not later than when the student turns 16 years of age.	Failed passage; died on House Calendar	petition TEA for Rule Change and work with legislators to pass next session, educate parents on right to request before age 16.
SB 1125	Senator Zaffirini/Representative Rodriguez	> Required transition planning as part of the students IEP to begin by age 14. > Required TEA to ensure each district or co-op designates a transition and employment services specialist. > Required TEA to develop state performance based monitoring indicators for students in special education that will measure the preparation of students to successfully transition to life outside of the public school system. > Required TEA to develop, update and make available on their website and at ARD meetings, a Texas-specific comprehensive, transition and employment manual.	Failed passage; died on House Calendar	Petition TEA for Rule Change and/or to implement provisions of bill not requiring legislation (manual for parents, monitoring indicators) and work with legislators and stakeholder groups to pass next session
HB 1322	Representative Hochberg/Senator Watson	> Requires TEA in conjunction with HHSC to develop an online website that will provide resources for teachers of students with special health care needs and will address the treatment and management of chronic illnesses.	Signed by the Governor and becomes effective immediately	Monitor implementation through TEA
SB 1489	Senator Watson/Representative Allen	> Developed a pilot program in 3 regional education services centers to establish an alternative dispute resolution option called IEP facilitation, a voluntary process where both the school and the parent agree to participate. > Independent facilitators would attend ARD committee meetings to make sure the process is correctly followed and the lines of communication remain open.	Failed passage; died on House Calendar	Work with TEA to implement provisions of bill not requiring legislation (IEP facilitation pilot paid for with federal funds) and work with legislators and stakeholder groups to pass statewide program next session
SB 1490	Senator Watson/Representative Patrick	> Moved the special education Due Process Hearings from TEA to the State Office of Administrative Hearings	Failed passage; died in House public education committee	Boycott due process hearings, work with legislators and other stakeholder groups to pass next session and/or look at other legislation related to burden of proof and statute of limitations.

SB 1557	Senator Shapiro	> allows students with autism spectrum disorder to attend health care appointments (including applied behavior analysis) as an excused absence.	Amended to HB 192 which was signed by the governor and becomes effective immediately	Monitor implementation through TEA and work with legislators to expand to other disabilities.
SB 1830	Senator Patrick/Representative Eissler	> Allowed for the creation of public charter schools which specialize in education services for students with disabilities, Public charter schools have full protections under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). > Allowed these disability charter schools to lease space on a school campus and laid the foundation for a high quality "school in a school" specialist program for students with disabilities (this was an amendment to a much broader charter school bill)	Failed passage; died on House Calendars	explore charter school options for students with disabilities and work with legislators to pass next session
SB 2044	Senator Williams	> Required someone representing special education to serve on district and campus level planning committees	Failed passage; died on House Calendar	Work with stakeholder groups to pass next session
SB 2082	Senator Shapiro/Representative Naishtat	> Required school districts when determining eligibility for special education on the basis of a visual impairment, to include in the full individual and initial evaluation of the student an orientation and mobility evaluation conducted by a person who is appropriately certified as an orientation and mobility specialist.	Failed passage; died in House Calendars	work with stakeholder groups and legislators to pass next session
SB 2083	Senator Shapiro	> Required TEA to develop an internet data collection process that each school would use to conduct surveys of parents, teachers, paraprofessionals and students to determine whether the student is progressing academically toward living independently and working competitively, whether they have an understanding of the student's educational rights, are satisfied with ARD meetings, conflict resolution, due process, teacher training and retention. > The survey also measured post school outcomes, where is the student living, is the student working or going to school. and reasons for student withdrawal from school. > The bill included a ranking of school districts, a report card to parents and grants for high ranking schools.	Failed passage; died on Senate Calendar	Work with TEA, legislators and other stakeholder groups to develop and implement a pilot and revise and pass next session
SB 2249	Senator Zaffirini/Representative Eissler	> Required for an educator to become certified as a teacher of students with visual impairments, the educator must: successfully complete all course work required by a State Board for Educator Certification-approved preparation program in that field; and pass the State Board for Educator Certification-approved examinations for certification in braille and in visual impairments specialist	Failed passage; died in House Public Education committee	work with stakeholder groups legislators to pass next session

HB 2657	Rep Hochberg	> Required districts to define the circumstances that a student may be removed from a classroom, campus or disciplinary alternative education program (DAEP) and changes the term serious or persistent to serious and persistent. > Serious and persistent misbehavior is defined as 3 or more times within one school year of aggressive action or conduct that meets the definition of a criminal offense in the penal code	Failed passage; died in House Calendars	work with legislators, Texas Appreseed and other stakeholders to pass next session. Work with TEA and legislators on increasing reporting, monitoring and intervention in school districts with disproportion numbers of discipline actions against students with disabilities, seek more training on positive behavior
HB 3173	Representative Allen/Senator Watson	> Ensured that a teacher can request training and or classroom support to provide instruction to students with disabilities. > allowed teachers to request and participate in an ARD committee meeting regarding a student they are teaching and required the school district to respond to teachers concerns and to inform the parents of the schools response.	Fail passage; ; died in Senate Education Committee	work with teacher groups and legislators to pass next session
Employment				
HB 785	Representative Rodriguez	> Required HHSC to ensure that employment services are structured to assist persons with disabilities to obtain and maintain meaningful employment in integrated settings. > Required the executive commissioner to adopt rules that would eliminate barriers to employment services for individuals eligible to receive services under a home- and community-based services waiver program. > required more training and technical assistance to providers, licensed ICF-MR facilities and local mental retardation authorities who provide employment services including training re SSI and other benefit programs. > required HHSC, DADS, and Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to collaboratively develop minimum standards for employment services providers that provide services. > required DADS to develop a plan to significantly reduce reliance on sheltered workshops as an employment option for people with disabilities.	Failed passage; died in House Calendars	Continue to work with HHSC, DADS, and DARS, and legislative offices and monitor interim changes to determine future legislation.
HB 3232	Representative John Davis	> Established a grant program to that would provide financial incentives to sheltered employment services providers to help them provide employment services to persons with disabilities in a more integrated, community-based setting.	Failed passage; died in Senate Health and Human Services Committee	Continue to work with HHSC, DADS, and DARS, and legislative offices and try to get funding in the 2010-2011 Legislative Appropriations Request and refile during the 82nd.
Medicaid Buy-In				

SB 187	Senator Deuell/Representative Lucio III	> Requires the executive commissioner of the HHSC to develop and implement a Medicaid buy-in program for children with disabilities whose family incomes do not exceed 300 percent of the federal poverty level. > Requires that participants pay monthly premiums on a sliding scale based on family income.	Signed by the Governor and will become effective on 0/01/2009.	Monitor implementation
State Schools				
SB 639	Senator Lucio/Representative Rose	> Established a State School Resident Bill of Rights to protect the safety and civil rights of state school residents. >	Failed passage; died in House Human Services Committee	Continue to work with DADS and legislative staff and re-file in the 82nd.
SB 643	Senator Nelson/Representative Rose	> Enacts emergency reforms for State Schools. > changes name of State Schools to State-Supported Living Center (SSLC) > Changes title of State School Superintendents to Center Directors and requires them to ensure civil rights of residents are protected; ensure health and safety, and general welfare of residents > Requires DADS to install video surveillance. > Requires DADS and DSHS to perform criminal background checks on all agency employees, volunteers, or applicants. > Requires the submission of fingerprints > Requires the Department of Public Safety to provide electronic updates of arrests and convictions > Requires random drug testing. > Improves training requirements. > makes a person ineligible for license to operate an ICF-MR if any administrative person had a conviction for an offense that would not allow employment at the facility > Creates an Office of Independent Ombudsman appointed by governor. > Establishes a toll-free number. > Requires DFPS to investigate incidents of abuse and neglect in private ICF-MR's. > expands the role and duties of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) regarding investigations and allows	Signed by the Governor and effective immediately	Monitor implementation through DADS

SB 643 coninued		to assist DFPS for criminal offenses > Requires DADS to notify resident, parent, or LAR of any incidents of abuse and neglect. > Creates a mortality review system in ICF-MR operated by DADS, community center, or any 1915(c) group home serving three or more residents > Requires HHSC, DFPS, DADS, ombudsman, and OIG to develope an MOU to outline agency roles regarding investigations > Requires the commissioner to hire an assistnat commissioner. > Creates an electronic database to collect and analyze information on the investigation and prevention of abuse, neglect and exploitation. > Increases the penalty for failure to report abuse of a child from a class B misdemeanor to A. > Establishes an Interim Select Committee on criminal commitments. > Requires yearly unannounced surveys of all HCS group homes and other foster homes.		
HB 748	Representative Darby/Senator Duncan	< Authorizes a person that provides disability services to contract with a state school or state center for the school or center. > Allows the State School to provide non-residential services and resources to support individuals with developmental disabilities, including individuals with dual diagnosis disorders as long as services don't interfere with current state school residents.	Signed by the Governor and becomes effective September 1, 2009.	Monitor implementation through DADS
SB 1060/HB 1589	Senator Ellis/Representative Rose	> Created a long-term strategic plan to rebalance and reform Texas' system of long-term services and supports (LTSS) for individuals with disabilities. > Provided that the LTSS system be based on principles of self-determination, include person-centered planning, provide and expand timely access to services and supports in the individual's setting of choice, base service provision on functional need, simplify and streamline community-based services, improve the quality of services delivered across programs and settings, strengthen oversight of community-based services, increase the cost-effectiveness and sustainability of long-term care services and supports. > created a strategic plan advisory committee.	Passage failed; both bills made it through the committee and died in their respective chambers.	Continue to work with DADS, legislative offices and stakeholders to create a plan and re-file next session.
SB 1407	Senator Shapleigh	> Created an Evaluation Authority to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the operation and management of state schools. > Authorized the responsibility for recommending the consolidation or closure of state schools. > Provided that the authority would also be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the authority's recommendations by HHSC and DADS as required by this chapter. > Created an advisory committee to assist and provide information to the authority.	Passage failed; died in Senate Human Services Committee	Continue to work with key legislative offices and determine the possibility of re-filing during the 82nd.

SB 2407	Senator Zaffirini/Representative Rose	>This comprehensive legislation focused on addressing the concerns of the U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ) related to the service delivery system for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. > focused heavily on the DOJ findings that Texas has not taken meaningful steps to serve individuals with IDD in the most integrated setting. >made improvements to the Community Living Options Information Process, as well as to the composition and purpose of Interdisciplinary Teams for persons in state schools. > set state policy in regards to the movement of a significant number of individuals from state schools and the transfer of the case mangement function from HCS Medicaid Waiver Program providers to MR-Authorities (MHMR Centers).	Passage failed; died in House Human Servcies in completely new bill	The Arc of Texas invested a significant amount of time in the development of this bill. Continue to work with key legislative offices to pursue re-filing.
HCR 22	Representative Burnam/Senator Carona	> grants permission to the Hasseeb Chistay family to sue the State of Texas, DADS, and the Denton State School for the abuse and neglect inflicted on him while he was a resident in the Denton State School.	Signed by the Governor and effective immediately	Monitor implementation
SCR 77	Senator Nelson/Representative Rose	> Approves the system-wide settlement agreement with the United States Department of Justice resolving certain investigations of state mental retardation facilities.	Signed by the Governor and effective immediately	Monitor implementation through DADS
Other				
HB 497	Representative Zerwas/Senator Nelson	> Directs the HHSC and the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) to determine the effect on the health care infrastructure in Texas if the state Medicaid program is abolished or a severe reduction in federal matching funds occurs. > The agencies can solicit information from health advocacy groups. The report is due to policy makers no later than July 1, 2010.	Signed by the Governor and effective immediately	Work with HHSC and TDI to underscore the importance of the Medicaid program and its accompanying federal funds to Texans with disabilities and the Texas economy.
HB 610	Representative Naishtat/Senator Van de Putte	> Establishes a Legislative Committee on Aging to study issues relating to the health care, income, transportation, housing, education, and employment needs of that population. > The Committee, composed of two senators, two representatives, two public members appointed by the governor, must develop recommendations to address the issues related to this population. > The Committee will hold public meetings and local forums will solicit input from local communities on the needs of this population.	Signed by the governor and effective 09/01/09	Monitor implementation of this legislation and participate in the public proceedings of this Committee to ensure the needs of aging persons with disabilities are included within the scope of this entity.

SB 705	Senator Nelson/Representative Naishtat	<p>> Directs DADS, in consultation with HHSC, to streamline the administration of and delivery of services through 1915(c) Medicaid Waiver Programs. > Items that may be steamlined include reducing the number of forms used in administering the programs; consolidating program provider manuals and training curricula; consolidating service authorization systems; standardizing individual service plan processes across programs, and more. > Directs HHSC to ensure consumer-friendly information about long-term care services so they can make informed decisions is posted and easily accessible on their website. > eliminates the Consolidated Waiver Program in Bexar County (a pilot program established sessions ago, serves approximately 200 individuals). > The provisions in this section clearly indicate that all CWP consumers must be moved to other appropriate community-based Medicaid Waiver Programs by September 14, 2009; these individuals cannot be placed on any interest list for services.</p>	Signed by the Governor and effective immediately	Monitor implementation closely. We will actively participate in public meetings to ensure individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are only positively impacted by the changes and implementation of the changes dictated by this legislation.
HB 802	Representative Davis	<p>> Requires DADS to implement the lifespan respite services program to promote the provision of respite services through contracts with eligible community-based organizations or local governmental entities. > Allows a person to be eligible if: primary caregiver for a person who is related to the caregiver within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity; has a chronic serious health condition or disability; requires assistance with one or more activities of daily living; and is not eligible for or not able to participate in any other existing program that provides respite services. > Requires DADS to contract with at least three eligible community-based organizations or local governmental entities selected by DADS to provide respite services.</p>	Signed by the governor effective 9/01/09	Monitor implementation through DADS
SB 1395	Senator Zaffirini	<p>> amended current law relating to the use of person first respectful language in reference to individuals with disabilities.</p>	Failed passage; died in Senate Health and Human Services Committee	Continue working with HHSC and key legislative offices and pursue in the 82nd legislative session.

<p>HB 1454</p>	<p>Representative Naishtat/Senator Zaffirini</p>	<p>> Creates pilot in one rural and urban community. > requires HHSC to convene a work group consisting of family members of, and advocates for, persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and persons with other cognitive disabilities, and of other persons interested in promoting supported decision-making services to develop the rules and structure of the pilot program. >requires the commission to contract with one or more entities to administer the pilot program and to recruit and train volunteer advocates to provide supported decision-making services. > allows for creation of program to be administered by a nonprofit organization, self-advocacy organization, or a local MRA. > grantee must provide a commitment to a philosophy of self-determination in providing supported decision-making services; providing peer-to-peer services training; person-centered planning; and preserving rights of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities and persons with other cognitive disabilities; and the ability to provided supported decision making services.</p>	<p>Signed by the governor effective immediately</p>	<p>Monitor implementation through HHSC</p>
<p>SB 1612</p>	<p>Senator Lucio/Representative Rodriguez</p>	<p>> directs HHSC to ensure that all HHS agencies that currently provide intervention services to young children to also provide information about velocardiocardiofacial syndrome to families with children who have at least two of the listed conditions, including communication delays, resonance disorders, recurrent ear infections, cardiac anomalies, feeding disorders and fine motor or gross motor skills delays.</p>	<p>Signed by the governor and effective on 9/01/09</p>	<p>The Arc of Texas will work closely with the local VCFS parent group to track and actively participate in the implementation of this legislation.</p>

SB 1824	Senator Lucio/Rep Lucio III	<p>> establishes a Task Force for Children with Special Needs (children is defined as individuals under age 22 who have a chronic illness, intellectual or other developmental disabilities or a serious mental illness), to be overseen by the governor or his designee. > outlines the issues to be reviewed by the Task Force. > They include reviewing all state agency policies and procedures related to this population and performing a needs assessment via public hearing to identify service delivery gaps, system entry points and barriers to services. > A report detailing the findings and recommendations to improve the coordination, quality and efficiency of services provided to this population over a five year period is due to policy makers no later than September 1, 2010. > The Task Force will consist of related state agency commissioners and eight non-voting members. > The non-voting members will include a governor-appointed MHMR representative, two house members, two senate members, and three parents or consumer advocates appointed by HHSC, the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Youth Commission.</p>	Signed by the governor and effective 9/01/09	The Arc of Texas will track and actively participate in the implementation of this legislation. We will do what we can to secure a position on this important Task Force and/or any sub-committees established by the Task Force.
HB 2303	Representative Truitt/Senator Uresti	<p>>This bill expands the scope of services and persons who may be provided services by a community MHMR center. >Community centers can now provide services and supports to persons with developmental disabilities or chemical dependencies, in addition to persons with mental illness and intellectual disabilities.</p>	Signed by the Governor and effective immediately	Monitor implementation This legislation is important to our members because it further streamlines the service delivery system for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
HB 3080	Representative Hartnett/Senator Watson	<p>>This is a comprehensive bill regarding guardianship matters. >Section 10 of this legislation allows the transfer of management trusts property to pooled trust by judges.</p>	Signed by the governor and effective on 9/01/09	Monitor implementation. Our Master Pooled Trust staff is in the process of sending letters to Texas probate judges and attorneys to ensure they have information about Section 10 of the legislation. The provision provides explicit permission to judges to use pooled trusts for individuals under Section 867 of the Probate Code. This is great news for The Arc of Texas Master Pooled Trust and potential beneficiaries!

HB 4552	Representative Naishtat	<p>>This bill had two major provisions. >The first provision directed the appropriate agencies to establish a Hospital Level of Care Medicaid Waiver Program for individuals who are medically fragile and who are at least 21 years of age. > The second provision in the bill would have codified budget rider language (from a previous legislative session) to ensure that DADS continues to use state agency general revenue funds to provide services and supports to individuals who are medically fragile and are enrolled in a community-based Medicaid Waiver Program but whose needs cannot be met under that particular program's individual cost caps. > The general revenue funds allow those individuals to remain in the program, while receiving the additional services and supports that are paid to by general revenue funds.</p>	<p>Passage failed; died in House Calendars</p>	<p>The Arc of Texas worked closely with Advocacy, Inc. attorneys who worked on negotiating bill language modifications with state agencies until late in the session. We will continue to work with DADS and HHSC on this issue throughout the interim. It is a tragedy that many individuals aging out of meaningful "children's" services cannot have their needs met under current Medicaid Waiver Program cost caps and/or are being recommended for state school placement by the state.</p>
---------	-------------------------	---	--	---

The Arc of Texas Governmental Affairs Team

Amy Mizcles, LMSW, Director of Governmental Affairs
amizcles@thearcoftexas.org

Rona Statman, JD, Director of Family Support Services
rstatman@thearcoftexas.org

Dawn Choate, MSW, Governmental Affairs Specialist
dchoate@thearcoftexas.org

Ginger Mayeaux, MSSW, Local Advocacy Coordinator
gmayeaux@thearcoftexas.org