



*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*

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June 28, 2011

The Honorable George Miller
Ranking Member, Committee on Education and the Workforce
United States House of Representatives
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Chairman Miller:

The Arc would like to offer our support for the Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act. As you are well aware, children and young adults with behavioral, emotional, mental health and substance abuse needs often require significant supports to live well in their community. Most often, those needs can be met in the community. For a very small percentage of children, however, those needs may require limited stays in public or private residential programs.

Whether at home or in alternative residential programs, children's safety comes first. Children subjected to abusive environments cannot learn, grow, or reach their potential. Given the repeated, substantiated claims of abuse and death in residential facilities, legislation is needed to ensure that our country's children are safe, properly cared for, and situated to learn and grow to the best of their abilities. We believe the Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act provides the reporting mechanisms, funding, surveillance, and training requirements needed to ensure that facilities are staffed with qualified, equipped, and safe personnel.

We thank you for your continued leadership in protecting all of America's children including those most vulnerable to neglect and abuse. If The Arc can offer any technical support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Peter V. Berns
CEO

Achieve with us.