



## Legislative Agenda 2018

**STRENGTHEN community-based services to meet the existing and future critical needs of all Virginians with disabilities.**

1. **SUPPORT provider rates** based on service definitions, living wages for direct service professionals, and regional market-based costs that are adjusted annually to ensure statewide access to quality supports and community capacity for individuals with disabilities in accordance with the U.S. Department of Justice Settlement Agreement.

2. **SUPPORT Jobs and Employment Supports for ALL Virginians**

Jobs are a priority in Virginia. Jobs for Virginians with disabilities must also be a priority. But, 75% of Virginians with disabilities are without jobs. Like ALL Virginians - they want the opportunity to work, to earn wages, to purchase goods and services in their communities, and to become self-supporting tax payers.

- **SUPPORT** funding for Long Term Employment Support Services (LTESS) and Extended Employment Supports (EES) that provide critical employment assistance and maintain jobs for Virginians with disabilities.
- **SUPPORT** informed choice for Virginian's with disabilities with where they want to work and for whom they want to work by codifying original legislative intent for the LTESS and EES programs in the Virginia Code.
- **RESTORE and SUPPORT** adequate funding for community-based Group Supported Employment.
- **SUPPORT** state policies and procurement opportunities that increase equal opportunity and employment for Virginians with disabilities.
  - Fully implement SB1530 (Chapter 371) and HB2425 (Chapter 358) to increase employment of Virginians with disabilities within state government and through its state contracts by five percent (5%) by 2023.
- **ENSURE** that a full continuum and array of employment options are available to all individuals with disabilities consistent with the basic principle of informed choice included in the ADA and the Olmstead decision.

3. **PROMOTE policy and influence action** to reduce over-regulation and unfunded mandates that create unnecessary operational burden on community-based providers of services and that do not add value to the individual with disability served.

4. **SUPPORT funding for the Priority 1 urgent waiting list** by 2020 to address the DD Waiver waiting list crisis. Individuals in Priority 1 have been assessed as needing services immediately.

5. **SUPPORT funding to increase statewide availability of services** for individuals with disabilities including individuals with psychiatric disorders and individuals with brain injury including veterans and wounded warriors.