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The Arc of California Supports SB 1052 to Protect Continuity of Disability Services During Times of Unexpected Change

SACRAMENTO, CA -- The Arc of California is proud to announce its co-sponsoring SB 1052, introduced by Senator Lena Gonzalez, with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), the Integrated Community Collaborative, and Disability Voices United. The bill strengthens and clarifies Welfare and Institutions Code §4541 to ensure continuity of authorized representation for individuals with developmental disabilities served by regional centers.

SB 1052 modernizes and clarifies the statute governing Authorized Representatives, which is a critical safeguard that protects civil rights when an individual with disabilities does not have a parent, guardian, or conservator legally authorized to assist them.

The bill would:

- Authorize SCDD to make contingent appointments of Authorized Representatives, allowing families to plan for unexpected events;
- Establish a clear statutory process for determining when a person's rights or interests cannot be adequately protected without a representative; and
- Provide authority to set time-limited appointments to ensure representation remains current, appropriate, and person-centered.

Authorized Representatives assist individuals in expressing their preferences, participating in Individual Program Plan (IPP) meetings, and advocating for services without requiring conservatorship or the removal of legal rights.

The bill is intended to protect the rights of people with developmental disabilities and ensure uninterrupted access to vital services in the event the authorized caregiver is suddenly or unexpectedly separated from their family member with a disability or unable to provide support. This legislation comes at a critical time amid federal immigration raids putting disability support systems at risk.

"People with developmental disabilities cannot lose access to essential services simply because a family is facing a crisis," said Jordan Lindsey, Executive Director of The Arc of California. "SB 1052 reinforces the promise of the Lanterman Act by ensuring individuals continue to have an authorized representative when they need one most. By creating clear processes and safeguards, this bill protects access to vital



regional center services and provides stability during some of the most vulnerable moments a family can face.”

Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, emphasized the importance of proactive planning:

“Every family asks the same question: what would happen to my loved one if I am suddenly not there? In today’s times, that question is more important than ever. This bill provides a clear answer and a real option for families to plan for the future with confidence.”

Senator Lena Gonzalez highlighted the urgency of ensuring continuity of rights and services:

“No family should live in fear of what happens to their loved one with a disability if they are suddenly no longer able to be there to provide support. Yet that is the reality families are facing more and more every day, as reckless federal immigration raids tear families apart. SB 1052 provides a clear, commonsense safeguard to protect the rights of people with disabilities and ensure they never lose the support, stability, and peace of mind they deserve, especially in these difficult times.”

By clarifying statutory authority around contingent appointments, investigative standards, and time limits, SB 1052 strengthens accountability, transparency, and consistency in implementation. The bill supports succession planning for aging caregivers and helps ensure individuals do not fall through gaps in representation when circumstances change.

The Arc of California and its partners will work with stakeholders and legislators to advance SB 1052 during the 2026 legislative session.

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About The Arc of California

Established in 1950, The Arc of California promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. The Arc of California provides supports and services to thousands of individuals with disabilities and their families through its 20 chapters across the state.