



## **Resolution: Community for All**

### ***Virginia must reform the service system for Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities***

**Whereas**, all Virginians have a fundamental, moral and civil right to live in the community and Virginia has the responsibility to commit to a true community-based system of support;

**Whereas**, Virginia is ranked near the bottom among states in funding of community supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities while continuing a high-level of funding for large, segregated state institutions;

**Whereas**, over 5,000 Virginians with equivalent needs of those living in the state-operated institutions are denied community-based services due to lack of funding;

**Whereas**, over 17,000 Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities are living in the community with a caregiver over the age of 60;

**Whereas**, there are thousands of Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities with significant needs who wish to live in the community;

**Whereas**, the nation is committed to expanding community-based resources to end unnecessary institutionalization of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities;

**Whereas**, Virginia has been on a 40 year journey to transform from an institutional focus to a community-based system of supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities;

**Whereas**, the Commonwealth is now in a fiscal crisis while thousands of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities continue to go unserved;

**Whereas**, over 100 local, state and national organizations representing hundreds of thousands of Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities have signed on in support of the Virginia Alliance for Community's Call for Reform.

**Whereas**, members of The Arc are vital to the resolution of these issues;

**Therefore**, be it resolved that members of The Arc of Virginia urge the Governor and General Assembly to ensure access to a community-based system of support for all Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities, regardless of level of need;

**Be it further resolved**, that members of The Arc of Virginia urge the Commonwealth to adopt "Community for All" as a priority by fulfilling its commitment to eliminate the waiting lists for community-based services and by ending the practice of institutionalization and segregation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Adopted: The Arc of Virginia 2009 State Convention  
August 10, 2009