

## **Please send your letter to Governor Hogan by December 2, 2019!**

To contact the Governor by email:

- 1) Option 1 – use the suggested talking points to compose your own message  
Option 2 – use the template to compose your message. Make it your own and enter necessary changes to reflect your role, responsibilities, and importance of your work.
- 2) Cut and paste the following link into your web browser:  
**<https://governor.maryland.gov/contact-the-governor/>**
- 3) For the message topic, choose “Developmental Disabilities Administration.”
- 4) Either type or cut and paste your letter into the message box
- 5) Complete the required fields and click “Submit”

To contact Governor Hogan by mail, send your typed or handwritten letter to:

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### **Option 1 - Talking Points for a Customized Letter**

- Urge Governor Hogan to include at least a 4% rate increase for DDA-licensed community providers in his FY21 budget.
- Briefly describe the work you do supporting people with developmental disabilities.
- Briefly describe the difference you think you make in the lives of people you support.
- Briefly describe the sacrifices you make in order to do the work you do.
- Encourage the governor to be a partner with the developmental disability community and to include enough funding in his budget to make sure that you can continue to work to make a difference in the lives of Marylanders with developmental disabilities.

### **Option 2 - Letter Template**

Dear Governor Hogan:

I am a Direct Support Professional (DSP) [or other title] at The Arc Central Chesapeake Region. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) depend on staff like me every day to help them live successful, integrated lives in communities across Anne Arundel County and the Eastern Shore.

[Optional – include a brief description of the work you do and how it makes a difference in the lives of the people/person you support]

DSPs are the foundation of the community-based service delivery model and their wages fail to reflect the complex and vital work that they do to ensure people with I/DD are safe and provided opportunities to live their life as they choose. To stabilize our workforce, the State of Maryland must bring wages for DSPs in line with the vast responsibility and importance of the job.

With that in mind, **I respectfully ask for your support to include at least a 4% rate increase for DDA-licensed community providers in your FY21 budget.** I make sacrifices every day in order to do my work. I urge you to show the I/DD community and those who support them, that

you value this line of work enough to include funding in your budget to make sure that providers like The Arc can continue to make a difference in the lives of Marylanders with I/DD.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
[Your Name]