



*For people with intellectual  
and developmental disabilities*

**The Arc**  
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May 8, 2012

Colleen Wieck, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
The Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities  
3700 Centennial Office Building  
658 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Coleen,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of The Arc of the United States we would like to express our appreciation for the Partners in Policymaking program on the occasion of its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Partners in Policymaking has made a significant impact on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families, and continues to do so. Throughout The Arc's network of more than 700 chapters in 49 states, there are Partners graduates serving on boards of directors and committees, leading coalitions and advocacy campaigns, and advancing the human rights of people with I/DD in so many ways; and we see Partners graduates having an impact within many other organizations as well. Through their work with and on behalf of people with I/DD in communities across the United States, Partners for Policymaking has expanded opportunities for education, employment, and community living in ways that were barely imaginable at the inception of the program.

It is fitting that you are taking a moment to celebrate all that Partners for Policymaking has accomplished. At the same time, while you rejoice in your successes, now is the time that we all must reaffirm our commitment and redouble our efforts. There is still much work to do to preserve the advances that have been made over the past years and to achieve even more on behalf of our constituents.

We appreciate this opportunity to be part of your celebration and look forward to working with you in the years ahead. All the best.

Sincerely,

Peter V. Berns

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***Achieve with us.***