



**ARRM**

*ARRM leads the advancement of  
community-based services that  
support people with disabilities in  
their pursuit of meaningful lives.*

1185 N. CONCORD ST.  
SUITE NUMBER 424  
SOUTH SAINT PAUL  
MINNESOTA 55075

TEL 651.291.1086  
TOLL 800.551.2211  
FAX 651.293.9389  
WEB [ARRM.ORG](http://ARRM.ORG)

## **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 24, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Amy Wartick, Communications Director  
651-291-1086 x4 [awartick@arm.org](mailto:awartick@arm.org)

### **Senator Kent Eken honored for exceptional work supporting Minnesotans with disabilities**

DEERWOOD, Minn. – The Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota (ARRM) honored Senator Kent Eken (04) with its 2015 ARRM Leadership Award on Thursday, September 24, 2015. The presentation ceremony at Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge recognized Senator Eken for his ongoing dedication to supporting people with disabilities across the state. The ARRM Leadership Award was created over a decade ago to recognize innovative leaders whose advocacy work has significantly impacted Minnesotans with disabilities.

ARRM CEO Bruce Nelson presented the award and commended Senator Eken for his strategic legislative efforts including rate reform and authorship of The 5% Campaign’s senate bills in 2014 and 2015. The Senator’s strong advocacy was instrumental in securing a five percent rate increase for Home & Community-Based Services in 2014; these essential services support 90,000 people with disabilities and older adults in Minnesota. The bill helped address a crisis, with the bulk of the funds going to underpaid direct care workers.

In his acceptance speech to over 200 disability service leaders, Senator Eken shared, “I got involved in politics to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Strong unity is so vital to

our success.” He urged disability providers in attendance to continue advocating for needed reform and funding by telling their personal stories to legislators and Governor Dayton during the 2016 session. “A lot of people don’t realize the severity of the workforce crisis we are in,” he noted. “Surpluses give us the opportunity to make up for cuts to Home & Community-Based service in the past.”

ARRM is a nonprofit association of more than 200 Minnesotan providers, businesses and advocates dedicated to leading the advancement of community-based services that support people living with disabilities in their pursuit of meaningful lives. ARRM members support people with developmental, intellectual and physical disabilities including autism, brain injury and mental health needs. People served live in their own homes, adult foster care settings, and other community settings. Founded in 1970, ARRM continues to lead positive industry reforms that support Minnesotans with disabilities. To learn more, visit [arrm.org](http://arrm.org), and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

###