



ARRM

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

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Media Advisory

March 6, 2015

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Legislators to Address 1,000 Disability Advocates at 5% Rally March 10

(South St. Paul, Minn., March 6, 2015)—More than 1,000 advocates from across the state including people with disabilities, their family members, and caregivers will rally at the St. Paul Armory on Tuesday, March 10th at 10 a.m. They will urge lawmakers to adopt a 5% rate increase for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) that support people with disabilities and older adults in Minnesota. The rally is hosted by associations ARRM and MOHR - both active supporters of [The 5% Campaign](#). (SF 646/647 and HF 564).

WHO: More than 1,000 advocates from across Minnesota including individuals with disabilities, their family members and caregivers.

Legislative Speakers (order tbd): Sen. Kent Eken, author of [SF 646](#) (5% bill); Rep. Rod Hamilton, author of [HF 564](#) (5% bill); Sen. David Brown, Rep. Matt Dean, Rep. Laurie Halverson, Sen. John Hoffman, Sen. Tony Lourey, Rep. Jerry Newton, and Sen. Julie Rosen.

Other Speakers: Bruce Nelson- ARRM and Mike Burke- MOHR; Sam-self-advocate, Pam Gonnella- parent, David Gaarder- Opportunity Partners.

WHAT: Rally urging lawmakers to support a 5% rate increase for Home and Community-Based Services supporting people with disabilities, older adults, and 90,000 caregivers across the state. This event will also include a performance by the Lifeworks Choir.

WHERE: The Armory, 600 Cedar Street, St. Paul, 55101

WHEN: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

WHY: 97 percent of disability provider revenue comes from government sources. Due to repeated cuts and rising costs over the past decade, this revenue is insufficient for most providers to offer caregiver staff adequate wages. As a result, providers have high turnover rates. Staff turnover has a troubling impact on Minnesota's most vulnerable citizens who depend on consistent staff to stay as independent as possible.

Rates for Home and Community-Based Services remain far behind the pace of inflation. A 5% rate increase will help close the gap, and enable providers to offer more competitive wages, increase staff retention, and ensure that people with disabilities and older adults receive consistent, high quality care.

ABOUT ARRM

ARRM is a nonprofit association of more than 140 disability service 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. Founded in 1970, ARRM is a committed champion for Minnesotans with disabilities and a leader of positive industry reforms. Learn more at www.arrm.org.

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