

**For Immediate Release**

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**The Arc of Virginia Statement in Response to DOJ Settlement Agreement**

The Virginia DOJ Settlement is a significant milestone in the Virginia's long road towards community – based care for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Provisions of the settlement announced today are consistent with The Arc's push to shift Virginia from an outdated institutional model to one that is focused on home and community based services. Such a transition is essential in order to meet needs of the 7,000 Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are on waiting lists for community-based services.

We are pleased to see the extensive oversight and monitoring that will occur in the community as a result of this agreement. We also commend the U.S. Department of Justice and the Commonwealth of Virginia for its acknowledgment of the needs of the individuals with ID/DD currently living in the community who are at risk of institutionalization.

The Arc of Virginia applauds Governor McDonnell and his administration for taking this important step in the right direction. We salute DOJ's leadership on making this a successful effort that will result in thousands of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities being afforded the opportunity to live "A Life Like Yours" in the community. This landmark agreement will be long remembered as a historic moment in the ID/DD civil rights movement.