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*People with developmental disabilities and their families
networking in advocacy for a better Missouri.*

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Dear Family,

I am writing on behalf of the Arc of the United States, Missouri Chapter. We are a grassroots advocacy organization. Our members consist of people with developmental disabilities and their families. We are working to end the waitlist for services through a campaign called **"Missouri Can't Wait"**. We need your help.

As you may know, there are nearly 5000 people in Missouri waiting for services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities. This includes young children, youth transitioning into adulthood, people living with aging caregivers and everyone in between. This crisis is growing fast.

Missouri Can't Wait--The hopes, dreams and plans of our family members *can't* wait.

You can help! It's easy. Enclosed you will find a form requesting limited personal information from you and your family. If you elect to participate, this information will NOT be shared with anyone outside of The Arc unless written consent is obtained.

This information will be used to create a network of families and self-advocates waiting for services. If you decide to participate, you will receive periodic updates regarding current waitlist issues and information on what you can do to help. You will also be given the opportunity to raise public awareness by sharing your story on our website (www.arcusmo.com).

You and your family are imperative to the success of this project. With your help, we can put a face on this critical issue. Policymakers need to realize that the people they represent are affected by the waiting list and are struggling because of the lack of funding for services

Consider joining our effort to create a better Missouri for your family, my family and all the other families waiting.

Sincerely,

Angela Gourley

Parent/Acting Executive Director