



Legislative Update 2016

FY 2017 budget approved includes:

- \$1.2 million for 100 new Medicaid NOW waivers to provide community based supports for more individuals with developmental disabilities.
- \$3.7 million to bring the ICWP Personal Support Services rate up to that of CCSP/SOURCE.
- \$11.9 million for the provider rate increase for COMP waivers to implement the recommendations from last year's residential rate study.
- \$300,000 additional funding added for training for Positive Behavior Intervention Supports in the schools.
- \$200,000 from last year continued for Inclusive Post-secondary education, however, no new funding.

HB768, the ABLE Act passed in Georgia! It has been signed into law by Governor Deal. Like college or health savings accounts, individuals with developmental disabilities will be able to fund essential expenses with tax-advantaged savings that will not impact eligibility for benefits. Learn more! <http://www.ablenrc.org/>

Employment First Georgia efforts have led to the Governor's endorsement of Katie Dempsey's Employment and Post-Secondary Education for IDD/DD Study committee's recommendations, including the creation of a Georgia Employment First Council (within GVRA).

Additional bills of interest:

HB 614 Landon Dunson Act - Video cameras will be allowed in special-education classrooms for safety and training purposes passed this year. Participation from local schools will be voluntary and access to footage will be limited to school administration, parents who request permission, law enforcement and court officers via subpoena.

SB 242 -Family Care Act – would give employees the right to take up to five days of earned and accrued sick leave to care for an immediate family member. Did not pass this year, however new strategies for next year are already in the works.

HB722 Haleigh's Hope Act Part 2 – to allow growing of cannabis in Georgia and expand the original bill to add cancer, ALS, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, autism, HIV, post-traumatic stress disorder and terminal illness as conditions failed to pass this year.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Claire Dees, Community Engagement Manager, Claire@p2pga.org.