

**SPECIAL COMMUNICATION TO VOR MEMBERS**

**"SPEAKING OUT" OPPORTUNITIES**

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**COMING SOON:**

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities is accepting comments on a proposed regulation relating to DD Act programs, including Protection and Advocacy agencies. In the near future, VOR will publish information about this comment opportunity.

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**1. A chance to vote in support of health care research relating the MR/DD population**

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### **Summary of "Speaking Out" opportunity:**

Vote in support of health care research relating to osteoporosis and fractures that occur in persons with MR/DD. See, <http://www.membersproject.com/project/view/BVZABY> for details and your chance to vote. Deadline for voting is August 31.

### **Details:**

#### **A letter from Dr. May asking for your "vote" in support of his research.**

For many years I have been interested in the problem of osteoporosis and fractures that occur in persons with chronic disabling conditions-especially those with neurodevelopmental disorders. Recently I have developed collaborations with some folks who share this interest. We are now looking for funding sources to help us develop some projects that could make a real difference. We recently learned

about a special project of American Express that may help us.

For the past two years, American Express has sponsored a "Members Project," an idea competition to stimulate positive change in the world. The top 5 projects share \$2.5 million dollars in graduated grants to implement their ideas. This year we have submitted an idea to fund Osteoporosis research, testing and education in adults with chronic brain disorders-from any cause. Should we win, the funds will be used to conduct healthcare assessments, build a practice based research network and deliver educational programming online. The project, entitled "Real healthcare for the chronically disabled" can be reviewed at <http://www.membersproject.com/project/view/BVZABY>.

Please take a few minutes to check out our project and support us with their votes before September 1st. It's simple, fast and will foster the kind of fundamental healthcare so important to this vastly underserved community.

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**2. Opportunity to provide input to The Arc-US. Let them know what you think The Arc should be doing in the future**

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**Summary of "Speaking Out" opportunity:**

The Arc of the United States' Board of Directors has a Task Force on Affiliation and Growth that is assessing the current status of the organization and mapping out plans for the future. For this purpose, the Arc is seeking active participation of a broad range of people who are concerned about issues affecting people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

To gather input our consultants, there is a confidential online survey. The link to the survey is: <http://surveys.gt.com/arc-of-the-us-stakeholder-survey>

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**THANK YOU!!**