



ALLIANCE HONORS REPRESENTATIVE KIM RANSOM WITH 2019 WAITLIST ADVOCATE AWARD

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Aurora, CO – At a ceremony located at Developmental Pathways, the Community Centered Board for Douglas and Arapahoe counties, Alliance presented Representative Kim Ransom with the 2019 Waitlist Advocate Award. This honor is awarded exclusively to those who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to ending the decades-long waiting list for services for Coloradans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

The DD waiver waiting list consists of almost 3,000 people with IDD who qualify for 24-hour, 7 day per week support. Unfortunately, some of these families have been on the waiting list for comprehensive services for decades. Representative Ransom earned this award in her role on the Joint Budget Committee by consistently advocating not only to protect existing services for people with IDD, but to also reduce the number of vulnerable families who are waiting for the important services and supports they need. Due in part to her dogged persistence, an additional 150 families will come off the waiting list and receive services this year. That alone is a powerful accomplishment.

Our community's goal of eliminating the waiting list will never be possible without simultaneously ensuring sufficient capacity and sustainability amongst the community-based providers who support this population. Representative Ransom clearly understands this critical component of the overall solution which led to her advocacy for increasing IDD provider rates in the 2019-2020 state budget. While the final 1% Medicaid common policy rate increase fell short of making up for prior losses and did not fully account for this year's inflationary pressures, we know from her efforts that Representative Ransom will continue her fight to maximize reimbursement rates for community providers to improve access to and quality of services statewide.

Representative Ransom's demonstrated commitment to understanding and advocating on behalf of the agencies that support people with IDD was made clear time and again this session. We are honored to be an ally in her efforts to provide funding for additional DD waiver allocations for people on the waiting list and to ensure there are services and supports available to meet them when an allocation is provided. Please join us in congratulating Representative Kim Ransom on her important work on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Colorado!

Alliance is a statewide association of Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and Program Approved Service Agencies (PASAs) that provide services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Alliance members serve over 10,000 individuals with IDD and employ 3,200 DSPs and case managers throughout Colorado.
www.AllianceColorado.org





(From left to right: Cheryl Wicks, Alliance Board President and Executive Director of Mosaic Colorado Springs; Josh Rael, Executive Director of Alliance; Emma Hudson, Director of Government and Community Relations at Alliance; Colorado State Representative Kim Ransom; Melanie Worley, CEO of Developmental Pathways. Photo credit: Tara Kelly at Nonprofit Management Services of Colorado.)



(Colorado State Representative Kim Ransom. Photo credit: Tara Kelly at Nonprofit Management Services of Colorado.)

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Alliance is a nonprofit, statewide association of Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and Program Approved Services Agencies (PASAs) that is dedicated to strengthening services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

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