

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Legislature Passes Developmental Disabilities Services funding/health plan tax reform deal**

**Sacramento, CA, February 29, 2016** – In a bipartisan vote today, the Legislature passed two bills, marking the end of a five-year fight by the developmental disabilities community. SBX2 2, authored by Senator Ed Hernandez (D – West Covina), reforms a managed care organization (MCO) tax, securing the continued inflow of over a billion dollars in federal funds. ABX2 1, by Assemblymember Tony Thurmond (D – Richmond), will provide nearly \$300 million in state funds for the developmental disabilities services system.

Advocates have worked for years to address the crisis in the developmental services system. The funding package, created in a special session of the Legislature, also starts a comprehensive study of the rates that are used to pay service providers.

The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA), along with other members of the Lanterman Coalition, worked with stakeholders, the Administration, and the Legislature in crafting a compromise that received bipartisan support.

“This is an historic step for over 300,000 Californians with developmental disabilities, their families, and their service providers.” said Anne Struthers, President of ARCA. “This bipartisan support shows the Legislature and Governor Brown are committed to community-based care and the values expressed in the Lanterman Act, passed also with bipartisan support in 1969. Congratulations to the Legislature for taking this step.”

Now known as the Lanterman Act, the state’s developmental disabilities services system assure people with developmental disabilities they can live, work, and thrive in the community. Local celebrations will be ongoing throughout 2016, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the system.

**About ARCA**

The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) represents the network of 21 non-profit regional centers that coordinate services for, and advocate on behalf of, California’s nearly 300,000 people with developmental disabilities.

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To connect with local regional centers and learn more about the anniversary of the developmental services system, please see [www.lanterman50th.org](http://www.lanterman50th.org)  
For ongoing updates, as well as information on developmental services in California, regional centers, and the ongoing funding crisis affecting the state’s service system, please see [www.arcenet.org/press](http://www.arcenet.org/press)