



The Arc of Pennsylvania Honors Representative Kerry Benninghoff and Senator Art Haywood with Its Coveted “Legislator of the Year” Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Sherri Landis, Executive Director
717-234-2621 slandis@thearcpa.org

Harrisburg (PA): The Arc of Pennsylvania has selected State Representative Kerry Benninghoff and Senator Art Haywood as the 2021 “Legislator of the Year” recipients. Each year, The Arc of Pennsylvania honors legislators who demonstrates exceptional leadership in addressing the needs of Pennsylvanians with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

“Representative Benninghoff and Senator Haywood have been vocal advocates for the rights of Pennsylvanians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to live and thrive in their communities”, says The Arc of PA’s Executive Director, Sherri Landis. “Throughout their tenures in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, both legislators have supported the closing of Pennsylvania’s remaining state institutions and supporting all individuals with IDD to live independently in their community with their non-disabled peers. Pennsylvania stands at the precipice of moving towards full inclusion for all individuals and ending an archaic system of segregation and isolation faced by those with IDD for too long.” Their advocacy supports not only those who reside in their districts, but the broader community of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

“I am both humbled and honored that you have chosen me as your Legislator of the Year,” says Representative Kerry Benninghoff. “By working for full inclusion of those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, your work recognizes the inherent dignity in human existence and the notion everyone deserve respect. That work that we have done together also recognizes the benefits and necessity of those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities living, thriving, and growing in our community.”

“I am extremely humbled to receive this recognition from The Arc of Pennsylvania,” says Senator Art Haywood. “By reducing stereotypes and treating each person with worth, these actions will get our communities, state, and nation to a point where we fund the resources that are necessary. We must treat each other, with or without developmental disabilities and physical disabilities, seen and unseen, with worth.”

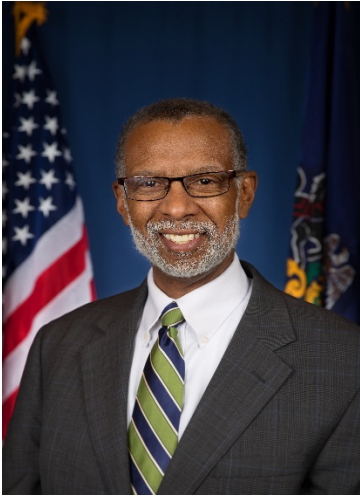
Representative Kerry Benninghoff and Senator Art Haywood will be honored during The Arc of Pennsylvania’s annual Advocacy and Policy Conference which will be held virtually on June 8th at 4 pm. Senator Art Haywood was elected to the Pennsylvania Senate in 2015 and currently serves as the Minority Chairman of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. Representative Kerry Benninghoff was elected to the House of Representative in 1997, and was elected by his colleagues to the position of Majority Leader in 2020.

For 71 years, The Arc of Pennsylvania has worked to ensure that children and adults with autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities receive the supports and services they need, are included in their community, and have control over their own lives. The non-profit organization is part of The Arc US and is affiliated with 30 local chapters, and over 12,000 members. The Arc of Pennsylvania advocates for quality services and to protect the rights of our constituency, provides information and resources to families, and increases public awareness of disability rights issues.

###

Editor’s Note: The Arc is not an acronym; always refer to us as The Arc, not The ARC and never ARC. The Arc should be considered as a title or a phrase.

The Arc of Pennsylvania
www.thearcpa.org



Senator Art Haywood



Representative Kerry Benninghoff

State Representative Kerry Benninghoff and Senator Art Haywood are this year's recipients of The Arc of Pennsylvania's Legislator of the Year Award.